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SECRET INVASION

By BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

MARVEL

SECRET INVASION

SECRET INVASION

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
WITH **BRIAN REED** *(NEW AVENGERS: ILLUMINATI)*
WRITERS

NEW AVENGERS #31-32

LEINIL FRANCIS YU
ARTIST

DAVE McCAIG
COLORIST

LEINIL FRANCIS YU
& **DAVE McCAIG**
COVER ART

MIGHTY AVENGERS #7

MARK BAGLEY
PENCILER

DANNY MIKI &
CRIME LAB STUDIOS' ALLEN MARTINEZ
AND **VICTOR OLAZABA**
INKERS

JUSTIN PONSOR
COLORIST

FRANK CHO &
JASON KEITH
COVER ART

NEW AVENGERS: ILLUMINATI #1 & #5

JIM CHEUNG
PENCILER

MARK MORALES
INKER

JUSTIN PONSOR
COLORIST

JIM CHEUNG,
MARK MORALES
& **JUSTIN PONSOR**
COVER ART

NEW AVENGERS #39

DAVID MACK
ARTIST

JOSÉ VILLARRUBIA
COLORIST

DAVID MACK
COVER ART

SECRET INVASION PROLOGUE

LEINIL FRANCIS YU
PENCILER

MARK MORALES
INKER

LAURA MARTIN
COLORIST

SECRET INVASION #1-8

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PENCILER

MARK MORALES
INKER

LAURA MARTIN (#1-8)
& **EMILY WARREN** (#4-7)
WITH *CHRISTINA STRAIN* (#6)
COLORISTS

GABRIELE DELL'OTTO
COVER ART

NEW AVENGERS #40, #42 & #45

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PENCILER

JOHN DELL
WITH *JAY LEISTEN* (#45)
INKER

JUSTIN PONSOR
COLORIST

ALEKSI BRICLOT
COVER ART

NEW AVENGERS #41, #44 & #46

BILLY TAN
PENCILER

BILLY TAN (#41)
& **BATT** (#44, #46)
INKERS

JUSTIN PONSOR
COLORIST

ALEKSI BRICLOT
COVER ART

COLLECTION EDITOR JENNIFER GRÜNWALD • ASSISTANT EDITOR CAITLIN O'CONNELL • ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR KATERI WOODY
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NEW AVENGERS #43

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PENCILER

DANNY MIKI
INKER

JASON KEITH
COLORIST

ALEKSI BRICLOT
COVER ART

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ALEX MALEEV
ARTIST

MATT HOLLINGSWORTH
COLORIST

MARKO DJURDJEVIĆ
COVER ART

MIGHTY AVENGERS #14, #16-17 & #19

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COLORISTS

MARKO DJURDJEVIĆ
COVER ART

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& **TOM PALMER**
FINISHES

EDGAR DELGADO
WITH *GURU-eFX*
COLORISTS

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COVER ART

MIGHTY AVENGERS #18

STEFANO CASELLI
ARTIST

DANIELE RUDONI
COLORIST

MARKO DJURDJEVIĆ
COVER ART

NEW AVENGERS #47

BILLY TAN
& **MICHAEL GAYDOS**
PENCILERS

BATT &
MICHAEL GAYDOS
INKERS

JUSTIN PONSOR
COLORIST

ALEKSI BRICLOT
COVER ART

NEW AVENGERS #48-49

BILLY TAN
PENCILER

BATT
INKER

JUSTIN PONSOR (#48)
& **PAUL MOUNTS** (#49)
COLORISTS

BILLY TAN, **BATT**
& **JASON KEITH**
COVER ART

MIGHTY AVENGERS #20

LEE WEEKS,
JIM CHEUNG &
CARLO PAGULAYAN
PENCILERS

LEE WEEKS,
JIM CHEUNG &
JEFFREY HUET
INKERS

DEAN WHITE
& **JASON KEITH**
COLORISTS

MARKO DJURDJEVIĆ
COVER ART

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AND **VC's CORY PETIT** (NEW AVENGERS: ILLUMINATI)
LETTERERS

MOLLY LAZER & **TOM BRENNAN** WITH *AUBREY SITTERSON*
ASSISTANT EDITORS

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EDITOR

PREVIOUSLY…

MONTHS AGO, THE AVENGERS DISBANDED AFTER A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY. THE SCARLET WITCH SUFFERED A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN, LOST CONTROL OF HER REALITY-ALTERING POWERS AND DECIMATED THE TEAM EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY.

SOON AFTER, NICK FURY ATTEMPTED TO SECRETLY ASSASSINATE LATVERIA'S PRIME MINISTER, LUCIA VON BARDAS. WHEN HIS ACTIONS WERE REVEALED, FURY WENT UNDERGROUND. NEWCOMER MARIA HILL WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF S.H.I.E.L.D., AND FURY LOYALISTS SUCH AS JESSICA DREW (SPIDER-WOMAN) AND DAISY JOHNSON (QUAKE) FOUND THEMSELVES OUT IN THE COLD.

WHEN A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE HIRED ELECTRO TO BREAK SAURON OUT OF THE RAFT PRISON, LEADING TO A LARGE-SCALE SUPER VILLAIN JAILBREAK, THE AVENGERS REFORMED TO COMBAT THE CHAOS. CAPTAIN AMERICA, IRON MAN, SPIDER-MAN, WOLVERINE, LUKE CAGE, SPIDER-WOMAN AND THE SENTRY FORMED THE NUCLEUS OF THE NEW AVENGERS.

THE TEAM TRACKED SAURON TO THE SAVAGE LAND, WHERE THEY DISCOVERED S.H.I.E.L.D. ILLEGALLY MINING VIBRANIUM AND USING SAVAGE LAND NATIVES AS SLAVE LABOR. WHEN THE TEAM ASSAULTED THE MINE, A S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER BOMBED THE BATTLE SITE, DESTROYING ALL EVIDENCE OF WRONGDOING.

UNBEKNOWNST TO HIS TEAMMATES, IRON MAN WAS A MEMBER OF THE ILLUMINATI, A SELECT AND SECRET GROUP OF HEROES WHO MET TO QUIETLY DEAL WITH DIFFICULT THREATS. IRON MAN CONSULTED THE ILLUMINATI ABOUT THE SENTRY, WHOSE IMMENSE COSMIC POWER AND EXTREME MENTAL INSTABILITY HAD CREATED A VILLAINOUS ALTER EGO, THE VOID.

WHEN THE AVENGERS AND X-MEN TRACKED DOWN THE SCARLET WITCH, HER FRAGILE MIND SNAPPED AGAIN, AND SHE BRIEFLY TRANSFORMED THE WORLD INTO THE "HOUSE OF M" REALITY WHERE MUTANTS RULED. SHE ULTIMATELY CHANGED EVERYTHING BACK WITH ONE KEY DIFFERENCE — 90% OF THE PLANET'S MUTANTS WERE NOW DEPOWERED.

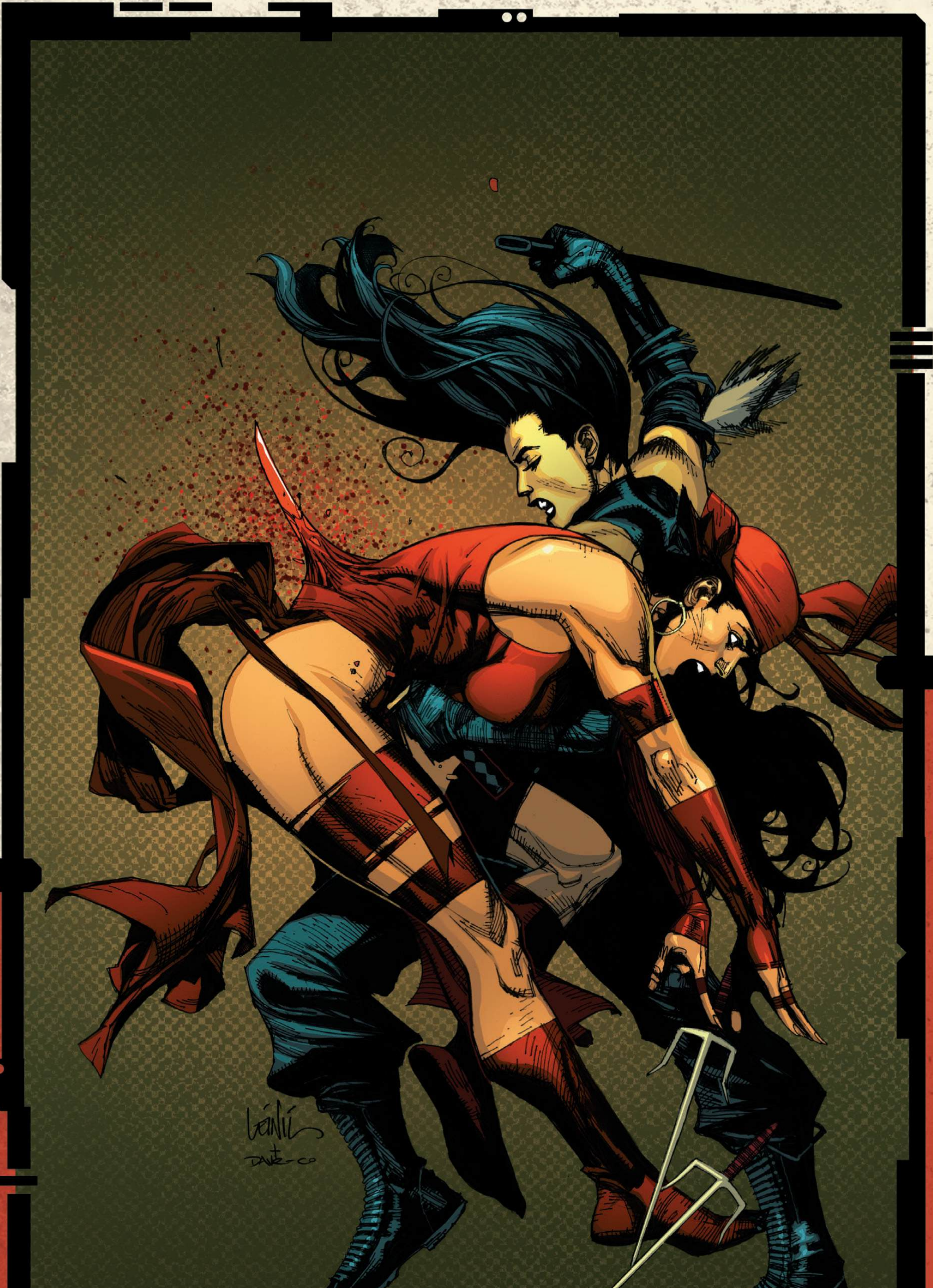
SPIDER-WOMAN WAS DISCOVERED TO BE A DOUBLE AGENT FOR HYDRA. HOWEVER, THE TEAM GRUDGINGLY TRUSTED HER AGAIN WHEN NICK FURY RESURFACED, REVEALING HER TRUE STATUS AS A TRIPLE AGENT. SHE WAS ACTUALLY SPYING ON BOTH HYDRA AND S.H.I.E.L.D. FOR FURY, WHO SUSPECTED THAT A GROWING CONSPIRACY CONTROLLED BOTH GROUPS FROM WITHIN.

WHEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PASSED THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT, THE NEW AVENGERS WERE SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE. IRON MAN AND THE SENTRY EMBRACED THE LAW AND HELPED S.H.I.E.L.D. HUNT DOWN UNREGISTERED SUPERHUMANS, BUT THE REST OF THE TEAM OPPOSED THE LAW AND BECAME FUGITIVES. THE SUPERHUMAN "CIVIL WAR" ULTIMATELY ENDED WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA'S ARREST AND PUBLIC ASSASSINATION, AND REGISTRATION BECAME ACCEPTED LAW.

TONY STARK WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF S.H.I.E.L.D., AND FOUNDED A NEW TEAM OF MIGHTY AVENGERS: HIMSELF, THE SENTRY, MS. MARVEL, WONDER MAN, BLACK WIDOW, ARES AND THE WASP. A FIFTY-STATE INITIATIVE WAS LAUNCHED TO PLACE OFFICIAL SUPER-TEAMS ACROSS THE NATION, WITH FORMER AVENGER HANK PYM OVERSEEING TRAINING OF NEW RECRUITS AT CAMP HAMMOND. AS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL TO HIS EX-WIFE THE WASP, PYM GAVE HER A FORMULA THAT ALLOWED HER TO GROW TO GIANT SIZE.

IRON FIST AND DOCTOR STRANGE ALLIED WITH THE FUGITIVE NEW AVENGERS, AS DID CLINT BARTON — FORMERLY HAWKEYE, NOW USING THE IDENTITY OF RONIN. THE TEAM TRAVELED TO JAPAN TO HELP THEIR ALLY ECHO, WHO HAD BEEN TARGETED AND BRAINWASHED BY ELEKTRA NATCHIOS, NEW LEADER OF THE HAND. THE AVENGERS BATTLED THE HAND, BUT ECHO'S BRAINWASHING ACTIVATED AND SHE STABBED DOCTOR STRANGE.

THE NEW AVENGERS DON'T REALIZE IT, BUT MANY OF THE FOES THEY HAVE FACED AND SITUATIONS THEY HAVE DEALT WITH HAVE A COMMON CAUSE. AND NOW, IN THE MIDST OF THEIR BATTLE WITH ELEKTRA AND THE HAND, THE TEAM IS ABOUT TO GET THEIR FIRST CLUE TO A MASSIVE CONSPIRACY THAT HAS BEEN UNFOLDING UNDER THEIR NOSES FOR MONTHS, IF NOT YEARS…



NEW AVENGERS #31

NEW YORK CITY. NOW
OTHER BUCKS NEIGHBORHOOD COMING SOON!!
MS. JONES, WHY ARE YOU NOT BREAST-FEEDING?
MY APOLOGIES, MS. JONES.
DON'T SWEAT IT, WONG. I'M JUST NOT USED TO MY BREASTS BEING THE TOPIC OF--
WHOA!
OKAY! WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S THE ORB OF AGAMOTTO!
WHY IS IT DOING THAT?
I DON'T--
WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S THE MASTER!
IT'S DOCTOR STRANGE? IS HE HURT?
IS THIS LIVE? IS THIS HAPPENING NOW?
IT'S HAPPENING NOW! THE ORB IS SHOWING US WHAT THE MASTER WANTS US TO SEE.
HE'S HURT?!
ARE THEY ALL HURT?
OH MY GOD!
GGGKK...

WOW, WORST SLUMBER PARTY *EVER*!
GUYS! AIM TO KILL OR WE'RE NOT GETTIN' OUT OF HERE!
LOGAN'S RIGHT!
EXCEPT I DON'T WANT TO *DO* THAT!
THEN WE'RE GOING TO *DIE* HERE, RONIN, BECAUSE THEY SURE ARE TRYING TO KILL *US*!

STOP GIVING THEM *IDEAS!*
HUUURRAAGGH!
BUT THAT *IS* YOUR REP!
CRUNCH
FUMP
YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU'RE A BIG PAIN IN THE @#$, ELEKTRA!
HAI!!
FTUMP
DANNY!
FIST!

EVERYONE!
KRAKOOM
それら は城を去ら ない!
AAIIEE!
RUUMMBBLEEN
それらは この郡を去 らない!
KOOM
HEY, ONE OF THEM *TALKS!*
HERE YOU GO!
SOME MORE WEBS FOR YOU GUYS TO CUT THROUGH IN SECONDS.
THWAAAPP
BUT HEY, AT LEAST IT'LL GIVE ME TIME TO--
FUNK
FUNK
FUNK
FUNK
FUNK
FUNK
HEY! ONE AT A TIME!
THERE'S PLENTY OF ME TO-- *AGH!*
CRASH

=OOF!=
WELL, AT LEAST I LANDED ON MY--
OH, COME ON...
CRACK
WOW, THIS IS A LOT OF NINJAS.
CRACK
FUMP
CRACK
CRACK
IT'S A NINJA TEA PARTY.
SMACK
SMACK
SMACK
OKAY, SO IT'S NOT JUST ME. THIS *IS* TOO MANY NINJAS, RIGHT?
SMACK
THEY MUST BE OUTSOURCING.
THEY MUST HAVE A GREAT BENEFITS PACKAGE.
DENTAL. MEDICAL.
FREE THROWING STARS.
YOU CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH THROWING STARS.
OH, NO. NO, NO.
WHAT?
I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE TO COMPETE WITH YOU IN THE *"MID-BATTLE WITTY ZINGER"* DEPARTMENT, AM I?
OH, YOU ARE.

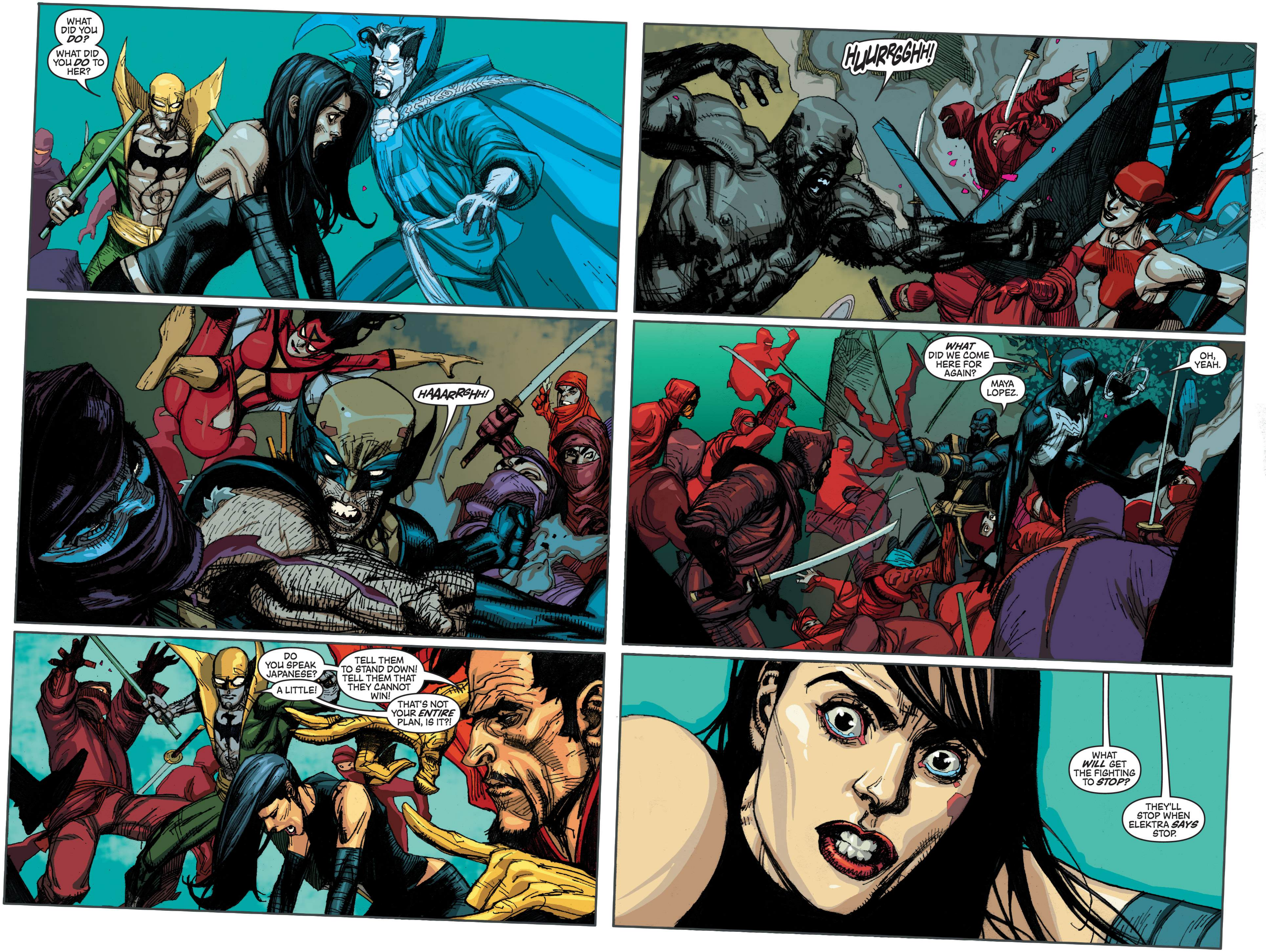
GIRL, YOU AIN'T GONNA GET ANYTHING OUT OF THIS FIGHT.
CRACK
HA!
I'M GOING TO LIGHT YOU ON FIRE.
FUMP
SNIKT
FOOOSSH

ZAZCCK
LOGAN! WE SHOULD MAKE A BREAK FOR IT.
ALL THE WAY BACK TO AMERICA?
THEY'LL FOLLOW US.
ALL THE WAY! AIN'T THAT RIGHT, GUYS?
それは右でないか。
ZZATCCT
ZZATCCT
WONG...
THE KARKUTHI...

CAN WE SEE THE REST OF THEM?! IS LUKE OKAY?!
QUIET, PLEASE! MY MASTER IS SPEAKING TO ME!
I HAVE THE KARKUTHI OPEN, MASTER.
MY ASTRAL FORM IS TRAPPED. THE HAND'S DARK MAGIC.
I'LL READ THE INCANTATION.
DAFTINI URANGUGANI LATUWANI...
FANTATI GUGOLO TARAKNYI...
DOKNHI GULATI FARDASA...
FASARITI!
D-DID IT WORK?

FANHTATI MULANTRATI!
ZZZZZZZ...
ZZZZZZ...
MAYA! YOU CAN *FIGHT* THIS!
CRACK
SPACK

SPAK
IF YOU'RE *THIS* GOOD A FIGHTER...
...THEN YOU'VE TRAINED TO FIGHT WHAT THEY'VE *DONE* TO YOU.
POW
FIGHT IT, MAYA!
WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU!
FIGHT IT!
GURANTI HURANTATAI!
YOU WILL BE FREE!
AAAIIIEEE!
AAAIIIEEE!


WHAT DID YOU *DO?*
WHAT DID YOU *DO* TO HER?
HAAARRGHH!
DO YOU SPEAK JAPANESE?
A LITTLE!
TELL THEM TO STAND DOWN! TELL THEM THAT THEY CANNOT WIN!
THAT'S NOT YOUR *ENTIRE* PLAN, IS IT?!
HUURRGGHH!
WHAT DID WE COME HERE FOR AGAIN?
MAYA LOPEZ.
OH, YEAH.
WHAT *WILL* GET THE FIGHTING TO *STOP?*
THEY'LL STOP WHEN ELEKTRA *SAYS* STOP.

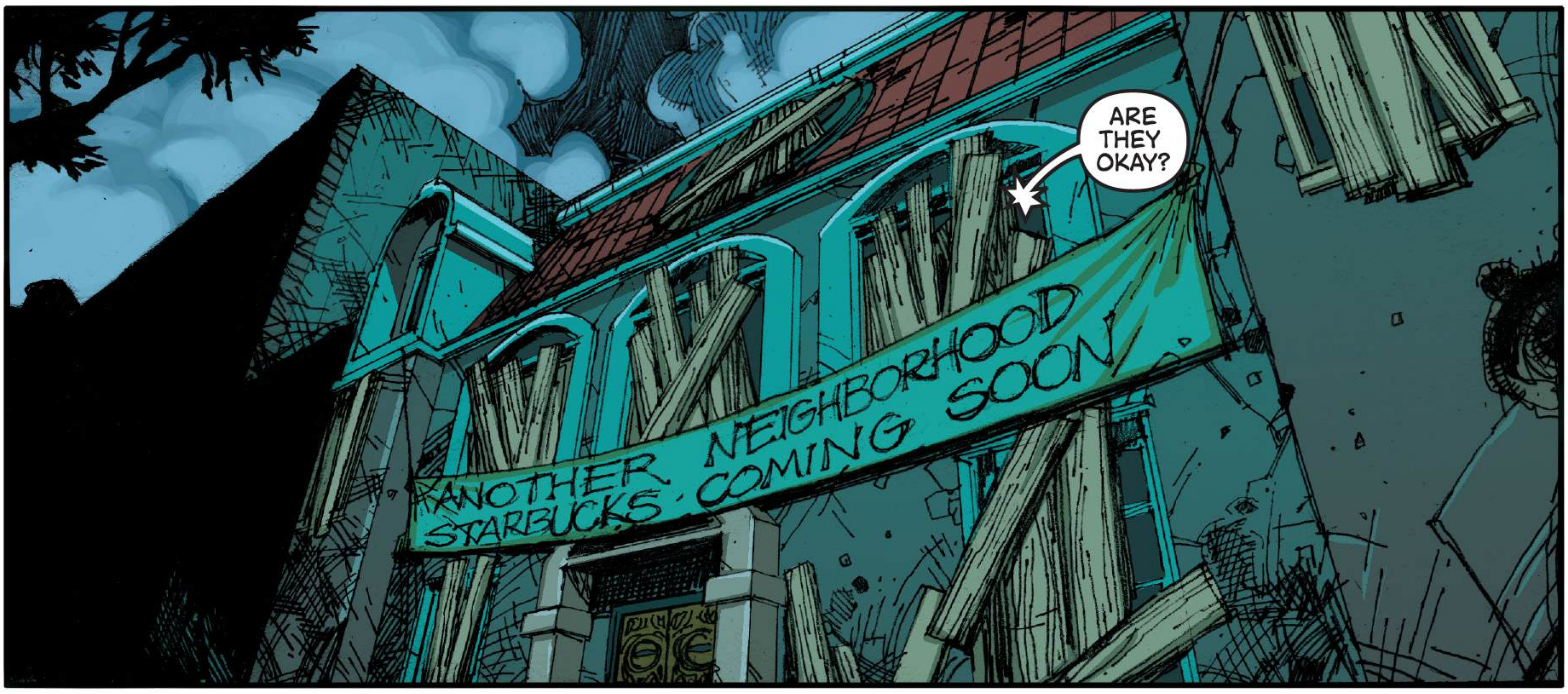
SKLITCH
GIRL, YOU CAN'T BURN ME! YOU CAN'T CUT ME! SO STOP TRYIN'!
I'M GOING TO TAKE YOUR EYES.

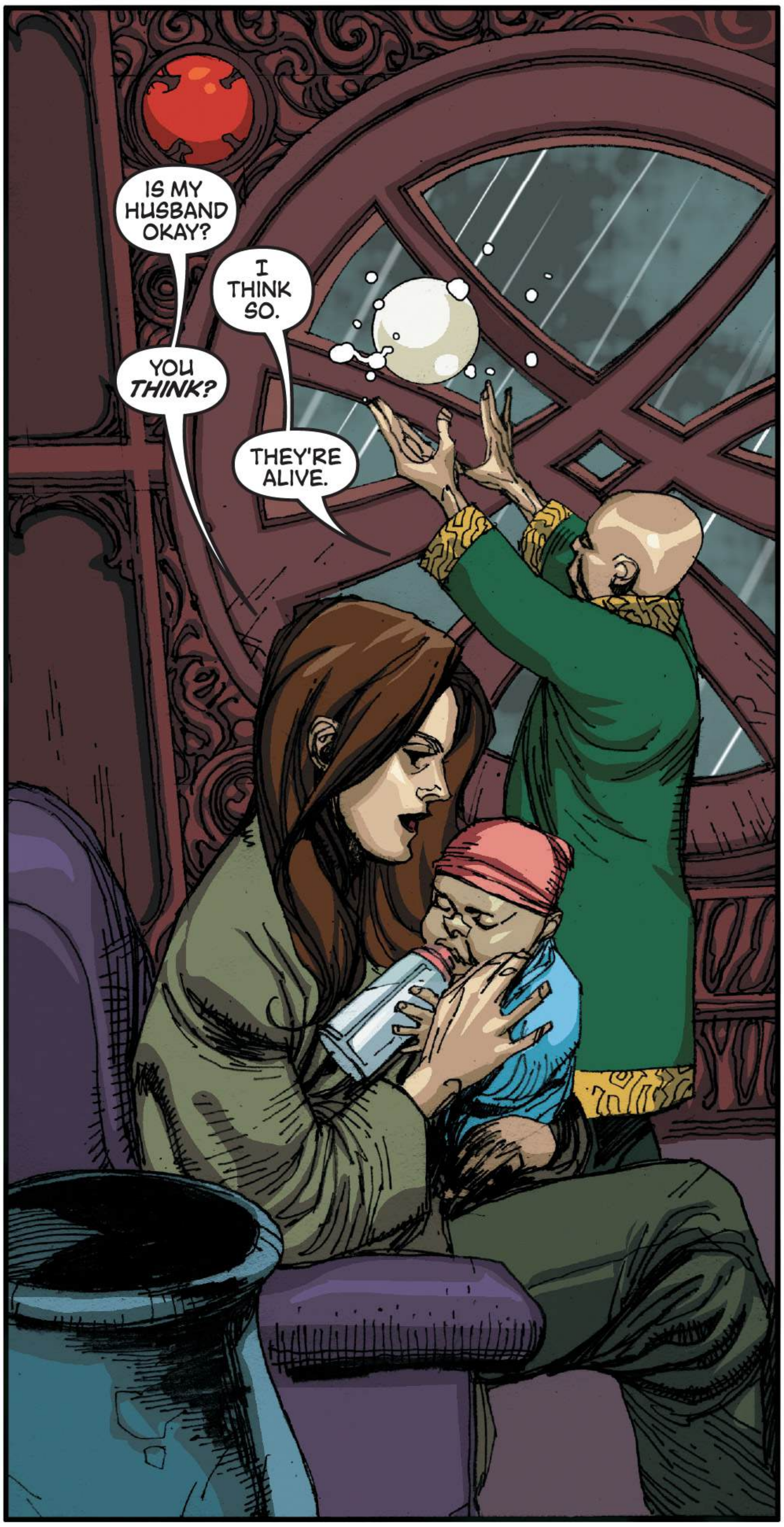
SHUK

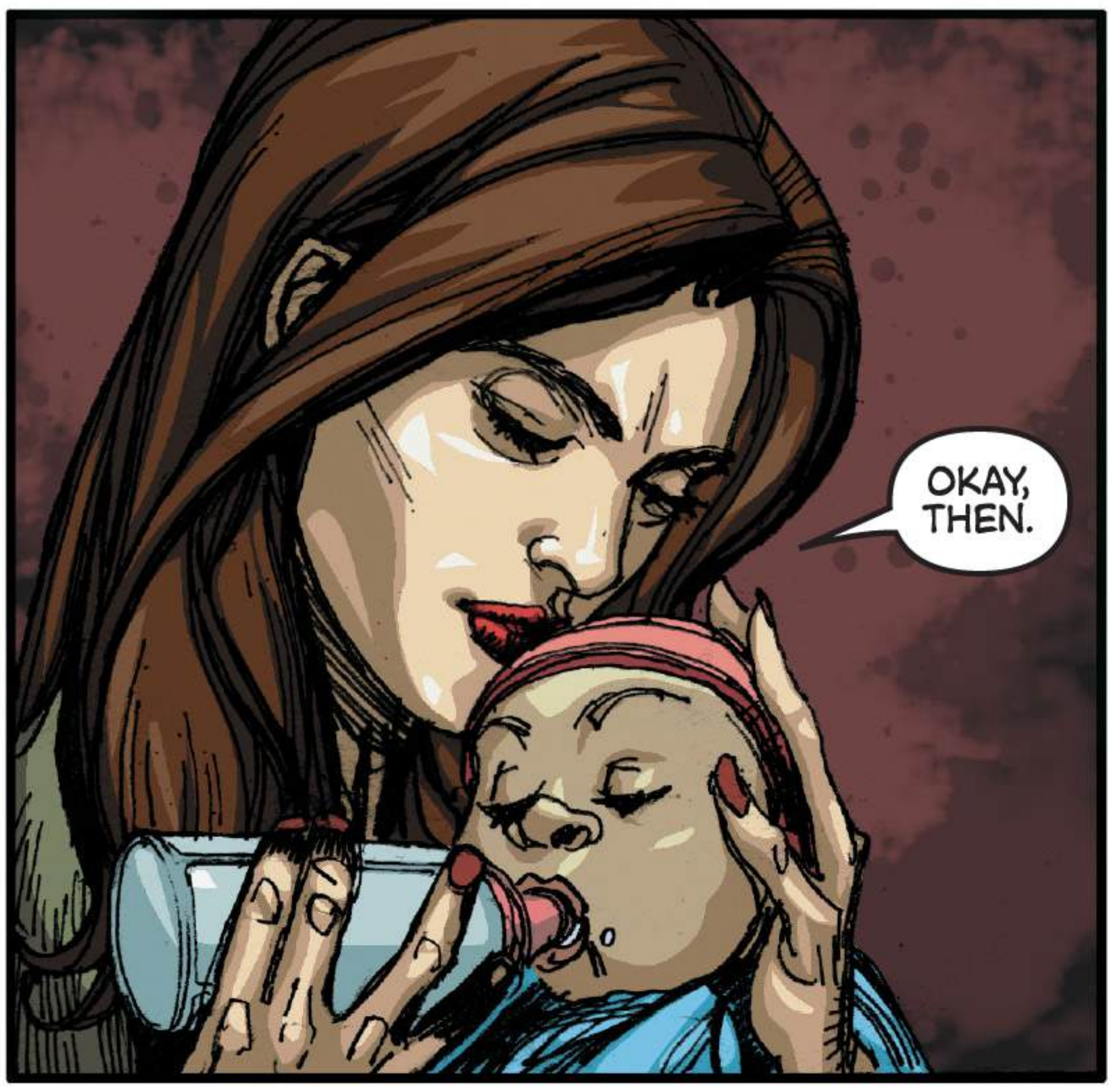
SNIFF THE HELL IS THAT?

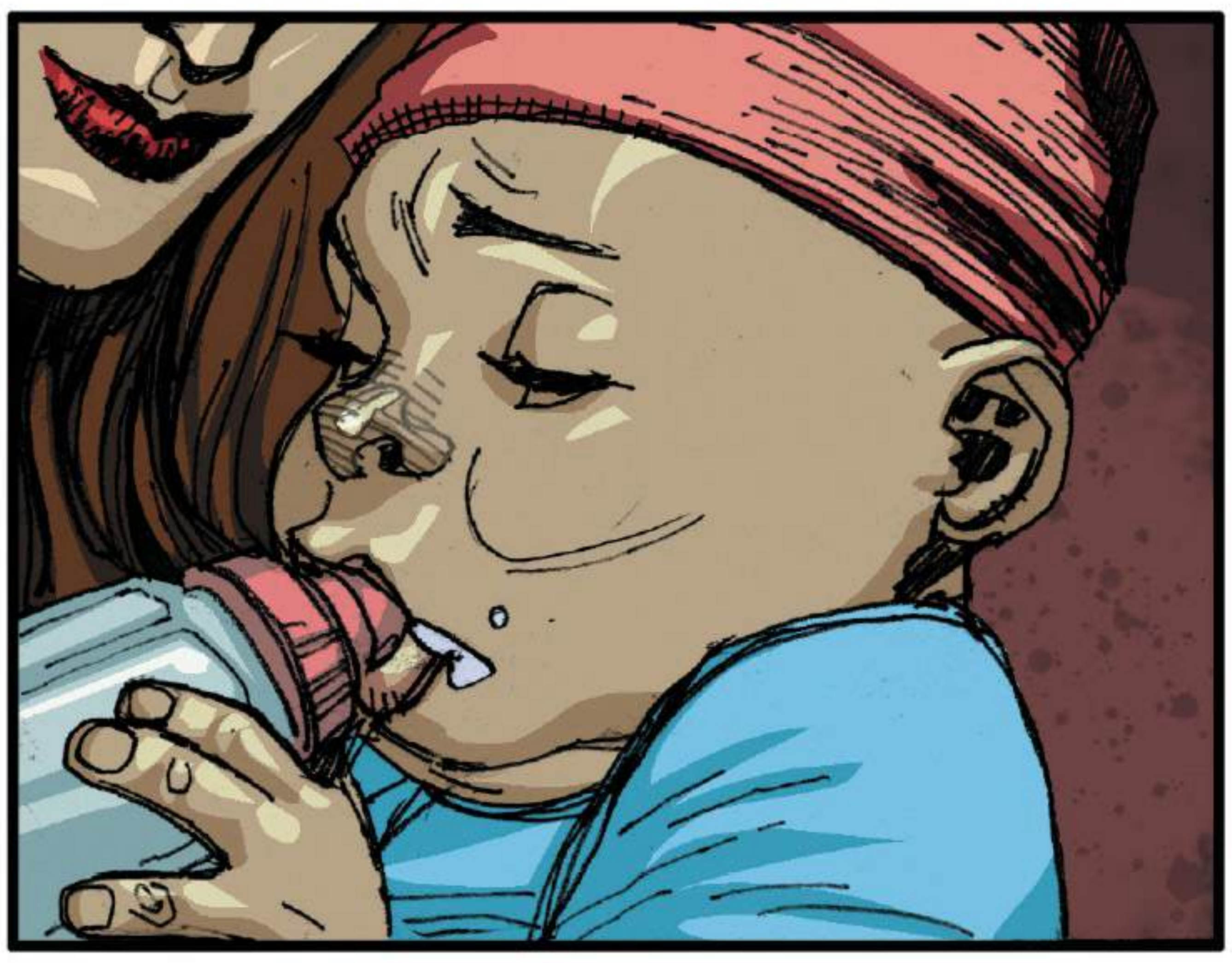
ここからの退去!
今、皆!
ここからの退去!
HEY, ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT *ME,* BECAUSE THAT'S JUST--HEY!
ARE YOU *KIDDING* ME?
THAT'S *IT?*
ZZATCOT
OH, NO! DON'T YOU EVEN--
WHAT?
WHY DID THEY DO *THAT?* WHAT *IS* IT?
COME ON...
(GOOD, EVERYONE'S STILL ALIVE.)
SAY WHAT YOU WILL ABOUT THE HAND-- THEY EITHER RUN AWAY OR DISAPPEAR WITH A POOF OF STINKY SMOKE.
THEY NEVER LEAVE...
...A...
...BODY...

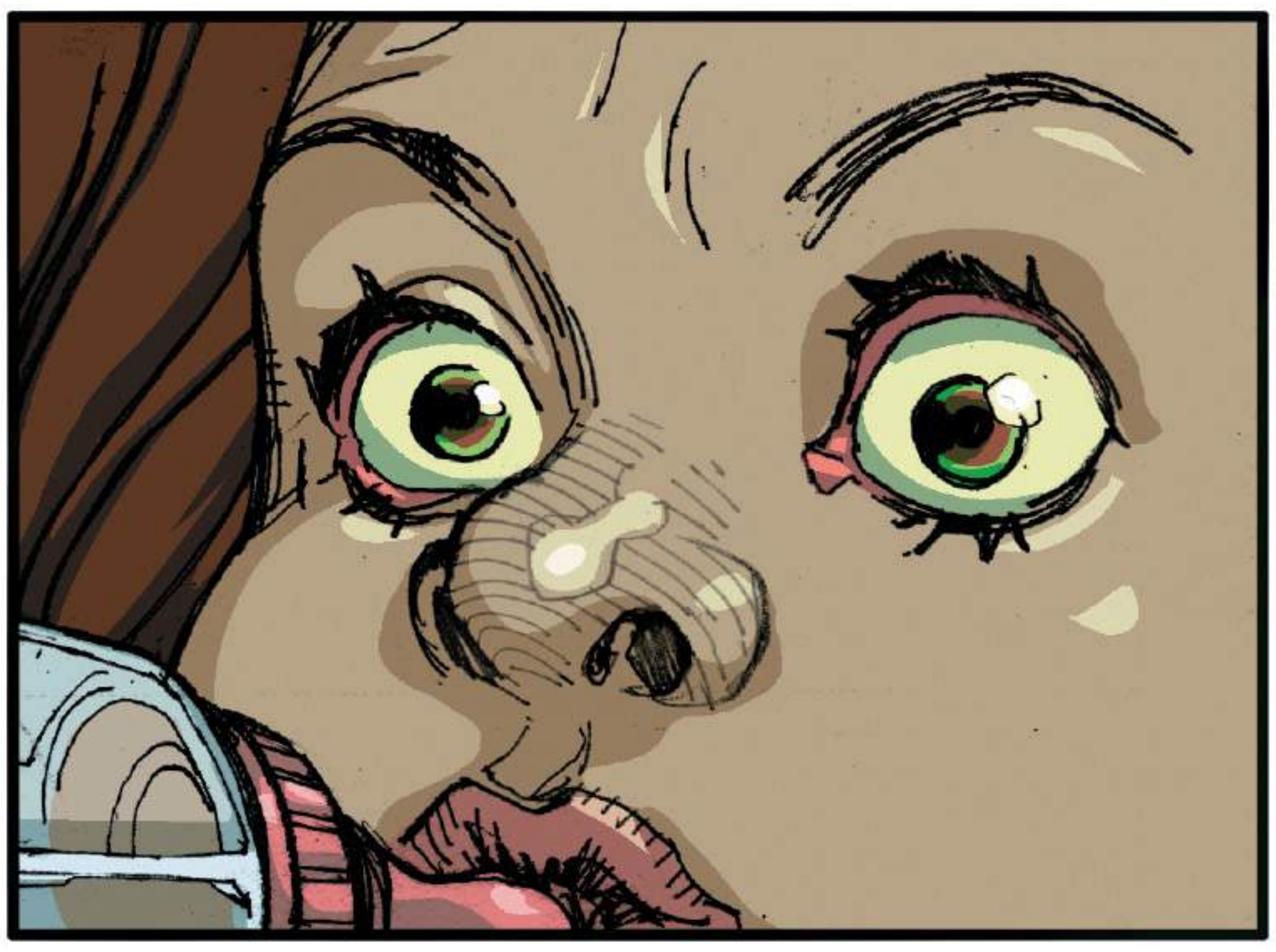
OH MY GOD...
WHAT-- WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

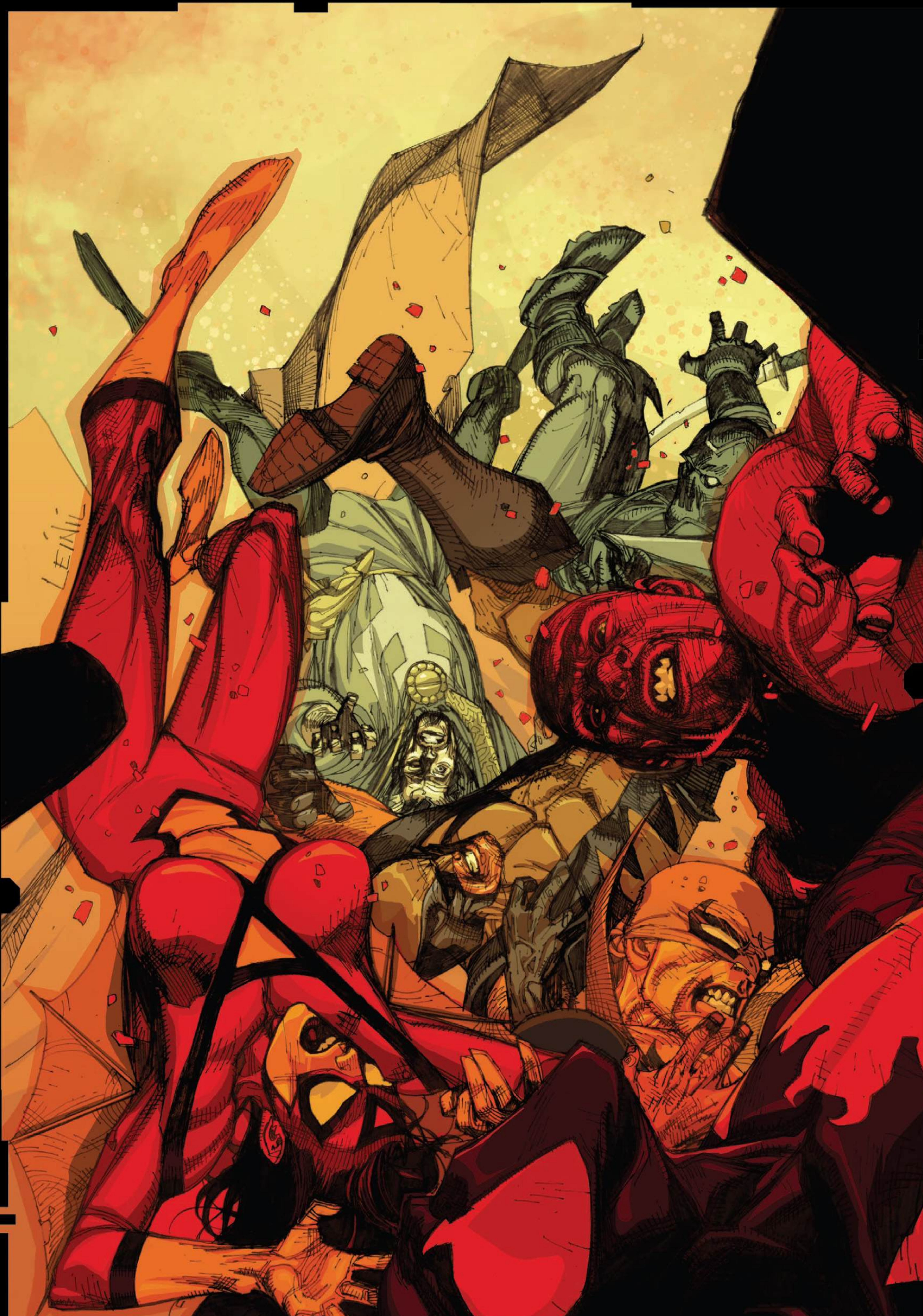

ARE THEY OKAY?
ANOTHER NEIGHBORHOOD STARBUCKS COMING SOON


IS MY HUSBAND OKAY?
I THINK SO.
YOU *THINK?*
THEY'RE ALIVE.


OKAY, THEN.







NEW AVENGERS #32

RAND CORPORATE JET, EN ROUTE TO THE UNITED STATES.
KRAKOOM
RRRUUMMMMMBBBLLEEEE
SO NO ONE IS GOING TO *TALK?*

OKAY, *I'LL* TALK.
ELEKTRA'S A *SKRULL.*
A SHAPE-SHIFTING ALIEN SKRULL WAS LEADING THE HAND.
THE LARGEST GROUP OF ASSASSINS IN THE WORLD HAD TAKEN OVER THE JAPANESE UNDERWORLD AND THEY WERE BEING LED BY A *SKRULL.*
SO *WHY* WOULD AN ALIEN TRAVEL MILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS, ACROSS GALAXIES AND THE MILKY WAY AND THROUGH WHAT I *ASSUME* IS HELLISH TRAFFIC THE ENTIRE TIME TO *DO* THIS?
JUST SO SHE COULD GET FREE YABISOBA NOODLES WHENEVER SHE WANTS?
SERIOUSLY, NO ONE FEELS LIKE *TALKING* ABOUT THIS?
WOW.
BECAUSE ELEKTRA IS A SKRULL?
NO ONE IS TALKING BECAUSE NO ONE *TRUSTS* EACH OTHER ANYMORE.
BECAUSE ANY ONE OF *US* COULD BE A SKRULL.

I'M NOT A SKRULL.
OKAY, ANYBODY BUT YOU. BUT THE REST OF US, ANY OF US COULD BE A SKRULL.
GREEN ELEKTRA DIDN'T COME HERE AN' SET UP SHOP BY HERSELF...
SHE'S PART OF A PLAN.
AND IF THEY INFILTRATED THE HAND, THE MOST RUTHLESS, CUNNING, DARING ASSASSINS IN THE WORLD...
IF SHE COULD GET HER SHAPE-SHIFTING ALIEN-NESS PAST MY VERY ACUTE MUTANT SENSES...
...THEN THEY COULD HAVE INFILTRATED S.H.I.E.L.D., HYDRA, THE AVENGERS, THE WHITE HOUSE, THE X-MEN...
DON'T SAY THE SECRET DEFENDERS. PLEASE NOT THE SECRET DEFENDERS!
RRRUUMMMMMBBBLLLEEEE
YOU'RE MAKING JOKES?
OR I COULD CRY, WHICH ONE WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DO?
SHALL WE PUT IT TO A VOTE?
AND IF ANY OF THAT IS TRUE... THAT IS A WARTIME PLAN. AN INVASION PLAN.
AND NO ONE IS TALKING BECAUSE NO ONE ON THIS PLANE IS COMPLETELY SURE THAT EVERYONE ON THIS PLANE IS EXACTLY WHO THEY SAY THEY ARE.
INCLUDING YOU.
INCLUDING ME. SURE.
BUT LET'S LOOK AROUND THE PLANE, SHALL WE...?

WELL, WE HAVE CLINT BARTON--HAWKEYE--BACK FROM THE DEAD AND ALL DOLLED UP AS THE NINJA OF THE 21ST CENTURY...
WHERE YOU BEEN THE LAST FEW MONTHS? DON'T *FEEL* LIKE SHARING?
DEAD, ALIVE, DEAD, ALIVE. AND HERE YOU ARE, NO BOW AND ARROW...AND WITH *US* INSTEAD OF YOUR OLD AVENGERS FRIENDS...
WELL, THAT'S NOT SUSPICIOUS *AT ALL.*
AND JESSICA DREW, THE WOMAN OF A THOUSAND ALLEGIANCES.
WHO'D YOUR DADDY WORK FOR? *WHERE* WERE YOU BEFORE THE NEW AVENGERS GOT TOGETHER? S.H.I.E.L.D.? HYDRA?
HEY, WHERE'S *NICK FURY,* JESS?
ECHO, KINGPIN'S ASSASSIN, IS NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD.
THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE THAT VOUCHED FOR YOU WERE CAPTAIN AMERICA, BUT HE'S DEAD...
...AND MATT MURDOCK, AND HE'S... WHEREVER HE IS.
AND *WHY* IS CAPTAIN AMERICA DEAD?
BECAUSE ALL THE SUPER HEROES IN THE WORLD HAVE SPENT THE SUMMER BEATING THE CRAP OUT OF EACH OTHER.
AND LET ME ASK YOU, PETER PARKER--
--THE MAN WHO SPENT EVERY SINGLE SECOND OF HIS ADULT LIFE TRYING TO PROTECT HIS IDENTITY AS SPIDER-MAN FROM THE WORLD--
--WHO JUST WENT AND TOLD THE WORLD HE WAS SPIDER-MAN AND ESCALATED THE WAR--
--HEY, PETE, WHO BENEFITED THE MOST BY YOU DOING THAT?

AND LUKE CAGE...
YEAH?
WHO USED TO BE A SATIN-SHIRT, METAL-TIARA-WEARING HERO FOR HIRE...
...BUT *NOW* HE WENT AND TURNED HIMSELF INTO A HUSBAND AND FATHER AND LEADER OF A SUPER-TEAM THAT YEARS AGO HE WOULDN'T BE FOUND DEAD ON.
AND NOW HE *RARELY* SPEAKS TO HIS SO-CALLED EX-PARTNER IRON FIST, WHO ALL OF A SUDDEN HAS A PLANE.
I DIDN'T ALL OF A SUDDEN GET A PLANE.
AND DOCTOR STRANGE, NOTHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT YOU...
MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS. *WHERE* WERE *YOU* DURING THE CIVIL WAR?
AND WHERE WERE YOU?
EXACTLY! AND THEN THERE'S ME!
WHO IS EVERYWHERE AT ONCE AND ALL OF A SUDDEN KNOWS EXACTLY WHO HE IS.
RRRUUMMMMMMBBBLLLEEEE
AND WHAT ARE *YOU* SMILING ABOUT?

TOLD YOU CATS SOMEONE WAS PULLIN' OUR STRINGS.
NOW WE KNOW IT'S TRUE AND WE KNOW WHO'S PULLIN' THEM.
NOW WE GOT OURSELVES A SHOW.
SERIOUSLY, I'M NOT A SKRULL.
AIN'T THAT JUST WHAT A SKRULL WOULD SAY?
IF I ***WAS*** A SKRULL, WOULDN'T I HAVE PICKED SOMEONE ***COOL*** TO BE? WHY WOULD I PICK ***ME?***
I THINK THIS IS A ***HUGE*** LEAP YOU'RE MAKING. ONE GREEN THING IS NOT A ***WAR.***
YOU EVER BEEN TO WAR, TOOTS?
HE'S RIGHT. IT'S A WAR.
MAYBE-- ***MAYBE*** IT'S A WAR.
EITHER WAY...
WHAT DO WE DO WITH ***THE BODY?***
AND THAT'S HOW THEY'RE GOING TO WIN. BECAUSE ***WE*** CAN'T SEE PAST A MAYBE.
WE TAKE IT TO TONY STARK.
NO.
ARE YOU WHACKED?
HE'S THE BIGGEST COP IN THE WORLD, SO WE TAKE IT TO HIM.
IF ***ANYBODY'S*** A SKRULL RIGHT NOW, ***IT'S TONY STARK!***
ARE YOU %$^#ING ME WITH THIS?
THE GUY'S DONE ***MORE*** DAMAGE IN ***LESS*** TIME THAN ANYONE. THIS WHOLE ***THING*** IS BECAUSE OF HIM.
IF HE'S A SKRULL, WE'LL KNOW BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DOES WITH THE INFORMATION.
IF HE TRIES TO ***KILL*** US, THEN WE KNOW HE'S A ***SKRULL.***

YEAH, *THERE'S* A PLAN.
WE TAKE IT TO THE MEDIA.
NO.
LISTEN TO ME, I KNOW A REPORTER WHO IS SO *NOT* A SKRULL IT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY. WE GO PUBLIC WITH IT.
NO.
IT PROTECTS--
RRRUUMMMMMBBBLLLEEEE
PEOPLE WILL--FIRST OF ALL, THEY WON'T PUBLISH IT.
THEY'LL PUBLISH A STORY ABOUT HOW *INSANE YOU* ARE FOR TELLING THEM TO PUBLISH IT.
AND THEN THEY WILL DO WHAT THEY *ALWAYS* DO.
MOCK YOU.
LISTEN, WHEN ALIENS FIRST LANDED ON EARTH IN THE THIRTIES--
YES.
HOW WILL THEY--?
AREA FIFTY-ONE.
YES, THE GOVERNMENT SPENT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS--NOT DENYING IT, BUT MOCKING THE PEOPLE WHO WENT PUBLIC.
THE GOOGLY-EYED ALIEN CREATURE DRAWINGS YOU ALWAYS SEE. THOSE WERE YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK.
YOU GO PUBLIC, IT MAKES YOU NOT ONLY THE *"WANTED CRIMINAL AGAINST THE STATE"* THAT YOU ALREADY *ARE,* IT'LL MAKE YOU A MOCKERY.
AND FOR SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN BEAT UP BY THE MEDIA AS *OFTEN* AND AS FIERCELY AS *YOU* HAVE, I CAN'T *BELIEVE* GOING TO THEM FOR *HELP* IS EVEN AN OPTION TO YOU.
WAS THAT SKRULLY OF ME?
TONY STARK IS A SKRULL. I CAN SEE THAT. *THAT* I CAN SEE.
WHO *ELSE* HAS BEEN SKRULLISH LATELY?
WELL, *WHO* BROUGHT THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT TO CONGRESS?
WHO WAS THE PERSON WHO ACTUALLY *DRAFTED* THE BILL?

I DON'T KNOW.
WELL, THEY'RE A SKRULL.
AND MAYBE THE PRESIDENT.
MAYBE.
MAN! ARE YOU PURPOSEFULLY HITTING *EVERY* CLOUD FROM JAPAN TO NEW YORK?
RRRUUMMMMMMBBBULLEEEE
WE GO TO TONY.
NO.
WHAT?
I'M TELLING YOU, IF TONY IS A SKRULL, THEN THEY *KNOW* WE KNOW.
GET IT?
THEY KNOW WE *HAVE HER* AND THEY KNOW WE KNOW. SO WE GIVE HER UP AND *SEE* WHAT THEY DO.
WHAT DO THEY WANT? THE SKRULLS.

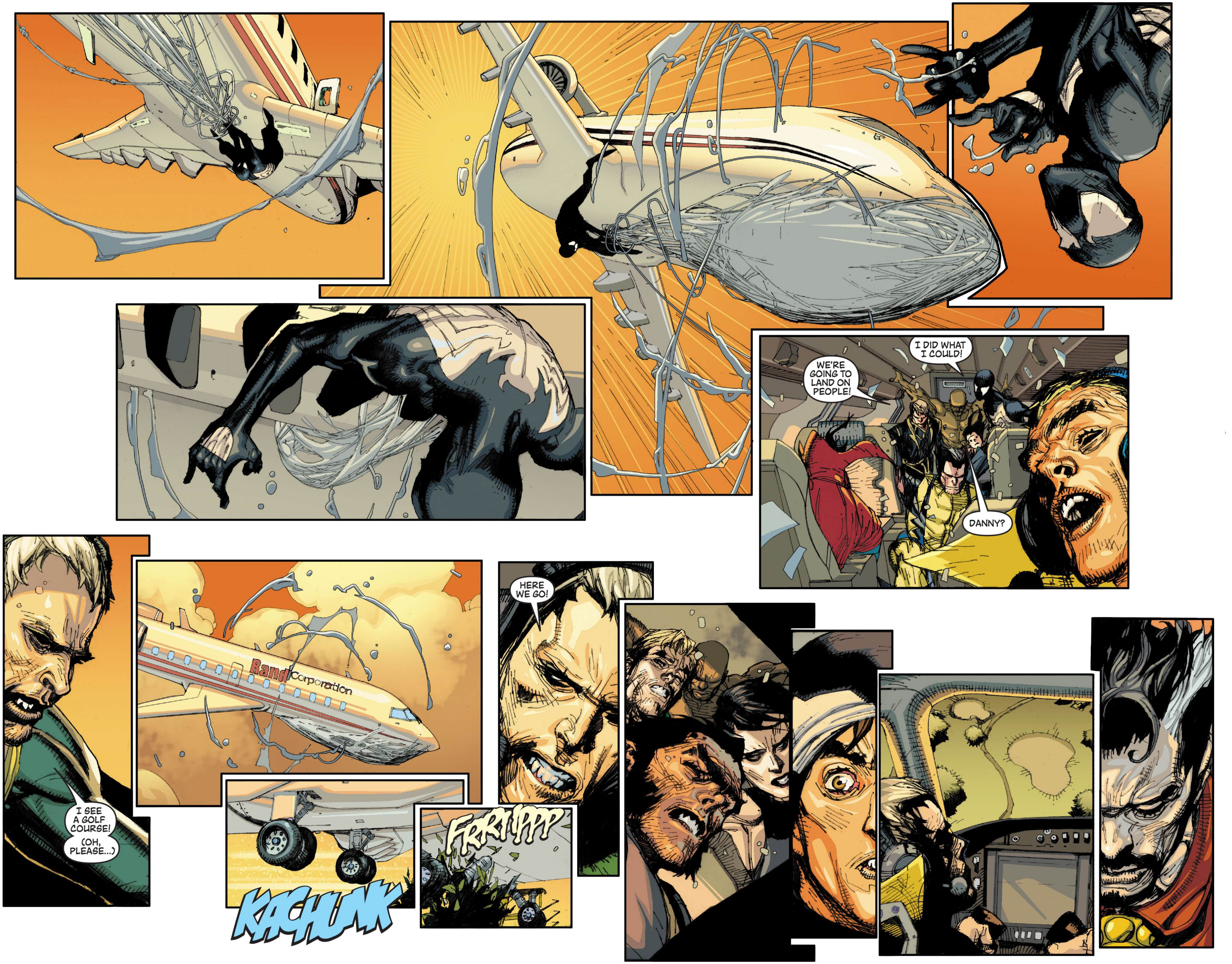
THEY WANT OUR PLANET. THEY HAVE NO PLANET AND THEY NEED OURS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN AN ALIEN BEFORE.
AND YOU'VE NEVER BEEN DEAD BEFORE. YOU'RE HAVING A REAL RENAISSANCE THIS WEEK.
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE SKRULLS WANT US EXTERMINATED, AS A POINT OF CULTURAL PRIDE.
THEY *TRIED* TO WHACK US BEFORE AND THEY *FAILED.*
THEY ARE A PROUD, WARRIOR RACE ON A LEVEL THAT WE, *EVEN* US, CAN'T WRAP OUR HEADS AROUND...
...AND THEY HAVE LOST THIS PLANET TO US, TO THE KREE, TO THE INHUMANS...
THEY HAVE FOUGHT HARD TO GET THEIR LITTLE MITTS ON THIS PLANET AND THEY HAVE *ALWAYS* LOST.
AND MAYBE-- I DON'T KNOW-- MAYBE THIS IS A REAL PLAN THEY GOT HERE.
AND IF LUKE'S THINKING ON ALL OF THIS IS RIGHT--
--THAT THE SECRET WAR, THE CIVIL WAR, WANDA MAXIMOFF, THE RAFT, ALL OF THIS IS BECAUSE OF *THEM...*
...IF THAT'S *TRUE,* EVEN A LITTLE, EVEN HALF OF IT...
...THEY MAY HAVE *ALREADY* WON.
KRAKABOOM
HUH.
WELL...
I'M FREAKING OUT.

GUYS, UH, WE CAN'T LAND IN NEW YORK.
THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON WITH THE WEATHER.
NO, THERE'S *SOMETHING* GOING ON.
WHY NOT?
NO DUH.
WE'LL HAVE TO LAND IN CHICAGO.
VRRRRRR
rporation
VRRRRRR
UH...
OH, NO...
OH MY GOD...

NO!
OH MY GOD!
WHAT'S HAPPENED?
WE'VE LOST POWER!
WE'RE GOING DOWN! DOCTOR, CAN YOU MAKE THAT NOT HAPPEN?!

IF YOU CAN FLY, FLY OUT OF HERE!
MY CLOAK WON'T WORK UNDER THESE CONDITIONS!
I'M NOT LEAVING!
YOU'RE LEAVING!
EVERYONE GET TO THE BACK OF THE PLANE!
LET ME HELP!
HELP BY GETTING YOUR THREE-HUNDRED-POUND BUTT TO THE BACK OF THE PLANE!
TRY TO BALANCE THE WEIGHT!
WE'RE GOING TO LAND ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, LET'S--
Corporation
NO!
DON'T BE AN IDIOT!
FRARJOOM
NOOO!

VISTANTI LUNUNANI STEENANI...
Rand Corporation
I-I-I NEED A GOLF COURSE OR-OR A PARK OR SOMETHING.
BACK OF THE PLANE, LOGAN!
WAIT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?


WE'RE GOING TO LAND ON PEOPLE!
I DID WHAT I COULD!
DANNY?
I SEE A GOLF COURSE!
(OH, PLEASE...)
Rand Corporation
KACHUNK
FRRRIPPP
HERE WE GO!

Rand Corporation
FRAMBOOM
Rand Corporation
BOOM
GROOM
Rand
RRPPPSSCCREEEE

CRUNCCHH
CLANG
OOF!
ARGH!
CHUCK

Rand
RRGG!

DON'T DO IT.
ZZACCK
AAGHH!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA--
SMACK
GAH! DAMN THAT--
ZZATCCT
NNRR!
SORRY.
ZZATCCT

MIGHTY AVENGERS #7

IRON MAN ARMOR SYSTEMS LOG.
JESSICA DREW A.K.A. SPIDER-WOMAN. IDENTIFIED.
EX-AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. LEVEL SEVEN, EX-AGENT OF HYDRA, EX-AVENGER, COUNTER-TERRORISM SPECIALIST.
STATUS: NOT REGISTERED. RENEGADE.
SEE FILE: SDFS-234 FOR POWER ANALYSIS.
SPIDER-WOMAN? HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
I'M A TRAINED AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AND A TRAINED AGENT OF HYDRA *AND* YOU USED TO LET ME BE AN AVENGER.
I CAN *GET* INTO PLACES.
IDENTIFIED: ALIEN LIFE-FORM CLASS SKRULL.
IMMEDIATE THREAT: NONE. LIFE-FORM DECEASED. VITAL SIGNS TERMINATED.
SEE FILE DFB-34T FOR INFORMATION ON SKRULL SHAPE-SHIFTING ABILITIES AND ALIEN CULTURE OVERVIEW.
SEE FILE DGE-49A ON SKRULL WORLD INTEL.
BUT THE GUARD STATIONED OUTSIDE--
IS TAKING A *NAP.*
I KNOW YOU'RE ABOUT TO ALERT THE HELICARRIER WAR ROOM TO MY APPEARANCE.
DON'T!
I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANY MORE AGENTS, AND I'M NOT HERE TO HURT YOU.
INSTEAD, USE YOUR ARMOR TO DO A FULL-WHATEVER SCAN AND SEE IF WHAT I AM HOLDING IS REAL.
I ALREADY DID.
OKAY.
THEN IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION, I NEED YOU TO TURN *OFF* YOUR ARMOR.

SPIDER-WOMAN VITAL SIGNS NORMAL.
LIE DETECTION NEGATIVE.
I CAN'T *DO* THAT.
YOU NEED TO DO SOMETHING RIGHT NOW TO LET ME KNOW I CAN *TRUST* YOU AND THAT YOU, IN FACT, ARE *NOT* A SKRULL.
WHAT?
IT'S A NEW DAY.
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.
SHUT DOWN.
LOG OFF--CYCLE 7. NINE DOLLY PEPPER.
RECORDING.
OKAY, OKAY.
I'VE SHUT DOWN THE MAINFRAME COMMUNICATIONS.
WE'RE NOT RECORDING THIS AND NO ONE CAN HEAR IT.
I NEED TO TRUST YOU, TONY.
CAN I TRUST YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED?

THE AVENGERS WENT TO JAPAN TO RESCUE MAYA LOPEZ.
MAYA LOPEZ A.K.A. ECHO A.K.A. RONIN. SENT TO JAPAN BY CAPTAIN AMERICA TO INFILTRATE THE JAPANESE UNDERWORLD AND REPORT BACK TO THE AVENGERS.
SEE FILE SG-34TV.
IS SHE OKAY?
SHE IS. WE GOT HER.
THE FIGHT TOOK US HEAD ON AGAINST ELEKTRA NATCHIOS AND THE HAND.
ELEKTRA NATCHIOS, EX-HIT MAN FOR WILSON FISK, EX-ROMANTIC PARTNER OF MATTHEW MURDOCK, RENEGADE S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMAND AGENT.
SEE DAREDEVIL FILES.
ECHO KILLED ELEKTRA. *THIS* IS WHAT FELL TO THE GROUND.
ELEKTRA WAS A *SKRULL?*
WOLVERINE THINKS THIS MEANS THAT WE'RE AT WAR. THAT THE SKRULLS HAVE *INVADED.*
THAT IT'S NOT JUST ONE LITTLE SKRULL POSING AS ELEKTRA...
THIS MEANS THE SKRULLS HAVE USED THEIR SHAPE-SHIFTING ABILITIES TO *INFILTRATE* MAYBE *EVERY* FACET OF OUR ORGANIZATIONS AND HAVE BEEN *MANIPULATING* US FROM THE INSIDE.
AND WE, JUST NOW, FINALLY FOUND OUT.
LUKE CAGE THINKS THAT WE'VE BEEN MANIPULATED AS *FAR BACK* AS WHEN THE NEW AVENGERS FORMED, ALL THROUGHOUT THE CIVIL WAR...
...ALL THROUGH TO *TODAY.* BUT NOW WE KNOW *WHO* IS PULLING OUR STRINGS.
THE CIVIL WAR WAS *NOT* A MANIPULATION!
THEY *ALL* THINK *YOU'RE* A SKRULL.
THEY THINK YOU'RE ACTING THE MOST *SKRULLY* OF ALL.

I COULD SEE THAT.
WELL, CHECK THE LOCAL NEWS: ULTRON TOOK OVER MY ENTIRE BODY AND TRASHED HALF THE CITY AND LAUNCHED A NUCLEAR MISSILE AND, WELL...
IF I *WAS* A SKRULL, YOU WOULD KNOW BY NOW.
MAYBE.
MAYBE?
NEITHER WOLVERINE NOR SPIDER-MAN NOR DAREDEVIL COULD TELL ELEKTRA WAS A SKRULL.
THEY ARE NOW *UNDETECTABLE* BY SCENT. THEY'RE MAYBE A NEW BREED... MAYBE.
WE CAN'T TELL THEM APART FROM US.
I'M *NOT* A SKRULL, JESSICA.
I THINK THAT'S TRUE. THAT'S WHY I CAME TO YOU.
I TOLD THEM WE HAVE TO BRING THIS TO TONY STARK.
THEY SAID NO.
AND I SAID, IF I BRING THIS TO TONY STARK AND HE TRIES TO *KILL* ME...THEN I KNOW HE'S A SKRULL.
IF HE STARTS TO *CRY*--THEN I KNOW HE'S NOT.
I THINK...
...WOLVERINE IS RIGHT.
I DO, TOO.
I BETRAYED MY TEAM AND I BROUGHT THIS TO YOU.
WHERE'S NICK FURY?

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME *THAT?*
BECAUSE...
...*I* DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
...AND *HE* WOULD.
WELL, TRUTH IS... I DON'T KNOW.
HE...HE *ABANDONED* ME.
WHEN THE WAR STARTED HE SAID HE FIGURED SOME STUFF OUT.
HE WAS GOING TO WORK *WITH* US...AND THEN, NOTHING.
I THINK--MAYBE THIS IS WHAT HE FIGURED OUT. MAYBE THEY *GOT* TO HIM.
THE SKRULLS WILL KNOW WE KNOW.
THEY'LL KNOW WE FOUND ELEKTRA AND THEY'LL START MAKING MOVES. BIG MOVES.
OKAY.
I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING.
I NEED YOU TO COME BACK IN.
I'M NOT SIGNING YOUR STUPID REGISTRATION ACT!
%^$# THE REGISTRATION ACT!
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A GLOBAL INVASION!
WHAT DO YOU NEED ME TO DO?

I NEED YOU TO JOIN MY AVENGERS.
WHY?
BECAUSE IT WILL CAUSE A REACTION.
IF THERE'S A SKRULL ON MY TEAM RIGHT NOW--THEY WILL REACT.
BY *KILLING* ME.
NO. BUT THEY'LL DO *SOMETHING.*
WE HAVE TO START DANCING AROUND THEM. PLAYING LOOSE. THROWING THEM OFF.
DO THINGS THEY *WON'T* SEE AS WARTIME STRATEGY.
AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO DO AN AUTOPSY AND TRY TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO DETECT SKRULLS WHO DON'T WANT TO BE DETECTED.
WE CAN'T TRUST ANYONE.
I KNOW.

AVENGER'S TOWER.
UNDER CONSTRUCTION/REPAIR.
OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE CALL 212-555-8585.
WELL, BEFORE WE WERE *RUDELY* INTERRUPTED BY *ULTRON*, I WAS *ABOUT* TO SAY...
WELCOME TO THE AVENGERS!
YOU HAVE BEEN 'THE VERY FIRST AVENGERS' *HAND-PICKED* TO REPRESENT THE BEST WE HAVE TO OFFER.
AND YOUR ACTIONS LAST WEEK AGAINST THE ULTRON THREAT PROVED THE CHOICES CORRECT.
ON EVERY LEVEL.
AND I *THANK* YOU, *ALL* OF YOU, FOR SAVING MY LIFE.
WHAT YOU REALLY WANT TO SAY IS *"I WAS A VERY PRETTY GIRL."*
YOU WERE!
YOU HAD BOOBIES.
SO *HOW* LONG WILL I HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS?

UM, FOREVER.
PRETTY MUCH FOREVER.
YOU *WERE* A HOTTIE.
YOU WERE A FINE SPECIMEN!
OKAY, IT'S CREEPY WHEN *ARES* DOES IT.
I'LL CUT YOUR *HEAD* FROM YOUR *BODY*, YOU INSUBORDINATE--
I WANT TO MAKE A TOAST.
YOU WANT TO MAKE A TOAST?
I WANT TO MAKE A TOAST.
LISTEN, I'VE HAD THE BEST TIMES OF MY LIFE WITH THE AVENGERS.
AND THE WORST.
AND THE WORST. (THANK YOU.)
AND SOMETIMES I DON'T APPRECIATE WHAT AN AMAZING THING IT IS TO BE PART OF THIS TEAM IN ALL ITS... DIFFERENT...FORMS.
EVEN THIS ONE.
BUT--
UH-OH...

UH-OH...
I REALLY SHOULDN'T MAKE TOASTS. I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I WAS GOING.
DRUNK.
YOU WERE GOING TO THANK US FOR SAVING YOU FROM YOUR ACTING CAREER AND THE INEVITABLE HORRORS OF REALITY TELEVISION THAT AWAITED YOU.
THAT'S TRUE.
THANKS FOR *THAT.*
I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT WE'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH A LOT.
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A *WAR!*
A WAR AGAINST *FRIENDS,* AND IT WAS...AWFUL.
BUT--BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT DID MAKE ME *APPRECIATE* THE FRIENDS I HAVE.
CHEERS.
WELL, WITH THAT, I ACTUALLY HAVE A BIT OF A *SURPRISE* FOR YOU.
WE HAVE A NEW MEMBER...
EXCUSE ME?

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
...JESSICA DREW.
NO WAY!
HOW DID *THIS* HAPPEN?
I WANTED BACK IN. HE LET ME BACK IN.
NOW?
NOW.
AFTER ALL OF *THAT* WITH THE WAR AND CAP AND HYDRA AND ALL THAT--
--*NOW* YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND ON THE REGISTRATION ACT?!
I TOOK A STEP BACK AND LOOKED AROUND. *THIS* IS WHERE I WANT TO BE.
I CALL $@%#@#$%, TONY.
NATASHA!
UGH, I HATE THIS.
IT'S BULL.
JANET!
IT'S A CHEAP SETUP.
FOR *WHAT?*
YOU WON. WE LOST.
I'M A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT. MY WHOLE LIFE. JUST LIKE YOU.
I WANT BACK IN, AND THIS IS WHERE TONY WANTS ME.

THEN WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
YOU'LL FIND THAT MY *LOYALTY* IS ONE OF MY BEST QUALITIES.
YOU'RE A TRAITOR.
COMING FROM *YOU,* NATASHA, THAT'S QUITE A--
MAYBE THE GROUP SHOULD VOTE.
OR MAYBE, AS TEAM LEADER, I SHOULD HAVE BEEN %^$#ING CONSULTED!
THIS IS A *MILITARY* OPERATION, CAROL.
THERE'S NO VOTING.
THERE ARE *ORDERS* AND ORDERS WILL BE *FOLLOWED.*
OH, NOW YOU'RE MISTER MILITARY.
SO I'M *NOT* TEAM LEADER... REALLY.
YOU *ARE.*
SO ARE YOU *HAPPY* TO SEE ME OR *NOT?*
IF THIS IS A TRICK--
OH, LIKE THE ONE YOU PULLED ON ME ABOUT CAPTAIN AMERICA BEING ALIVE?
THAT WAS DIFFERENT.
IT WAS *BRILLIANT,* ACTUALLY.
I'M NOT MAD. I JUST WANT TO GET BACK TO DOING SOMETHING MEANINGFUL.
Y'KNOW? *ALL* THIS CRAP WE'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH...
I--I WANT TO TAKE *ALL* MY FRUSTRATION WITH LIFE AND I WANT TO HONE IT TO A POINT AND--AND *AIM* IT RIGHT AT SOME BAD GUY IN A BAD COSTUME.
I *WILL* HAVE YOU, FAIR CREATURE.
AND, HEY, IF YOU SEE ME DOING ANYTHING SHIFTY, *BOBBY* CAN THROW ME INTO THE SUN.
I DON'T THROW EVERYTHING INTO THE SUN.
OKAY, OKAY, OKAY. TONY SAYS IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY.
THANK YOU.
OKAY.
ARE WE DONE WITH THIS AND EVERYONE IS BACK TOGETHER AND EVERYTHING IS COOL?
BECAUSE *I* BROUGHT A SURPRISE TOO.
UH-OH.
SIMON, SIT HERE.
JARVIS, COULD YOU LEAD THEM IN...?
UH-OH.
UH-OH.

SIMON WILLIAMS... IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO PICK A NEW YOU.
UH... WHAT?
NOW THE COLOR SCHEMES AND ALL THAT ARE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION, BUT I WANTED TO GET SOME *THEMES* GOING...
WE HAVE TRADITIONAL SUPER-HERO ICON.
I LIKE MY LOOK.
URBAN VIGILANTE.
DAREDEVIL MEETS, UM--
WAIT A SECOND, WAIT A SECOND, WAIT A SECOND...
...*THESE* ARE THE *SAME* COSTUME DESIGNS YOU SHOWED *LUKE CAGE.*
I AM TRYING TO HELP *YOU* HERE.
HACK.
I *LIKE* MY LOOK.
SWEETIE, LISTEN...

THERE IS **NO ONE** IN THE WORLD WHO LOVED LEG WARMERS MORE THAN I...
...BUT THOSE DAYS ARE GONE AND THEY ARE **NOT** COMING BACK.
AND THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR YOU AND YOUR LEISURE SUIT.
BUT...
THIS IS WHAT WE CALL A FASHION INTERVENTION...
I **LIKE** MY LOOK!
JUST... LISTEN TO HER.
YOU'RE NOT LEAVING HERE UNTIL THAT JACKET IS IN THE MUSEUM WHERE IT BELONGS.
YOU DON'T.
I **LIKE** MY LOOK!
I DO!
ALL THE PIECES?

HOW MANY SATELLITES DOES STARK **HAVE** UP HERE?
ALL THE PIECES.
MORE THAN YOU.
NO **WONDER** MY CELL PHONE RECEPTION SUCKS. **LOOK** AT ALL THIS.
JUST GET EVERY LITTLE PIECE AND LET'S GO HOME.
YOU KNOW ONE DAY STARK IS GOING TO MAKE CONDOS UP HERE.
CLANG

SPOING
BAM

CRICK
WWAAAGGGHHH!
OH, BABY...
WWWAAAAGGRRGGHH!!
FIELD'S DELI
OH, BABY, BABY, BABY...
WWAAAAGGRRGGHH!!
AAIIEEE!
WWAAAARRGGGHHH!!

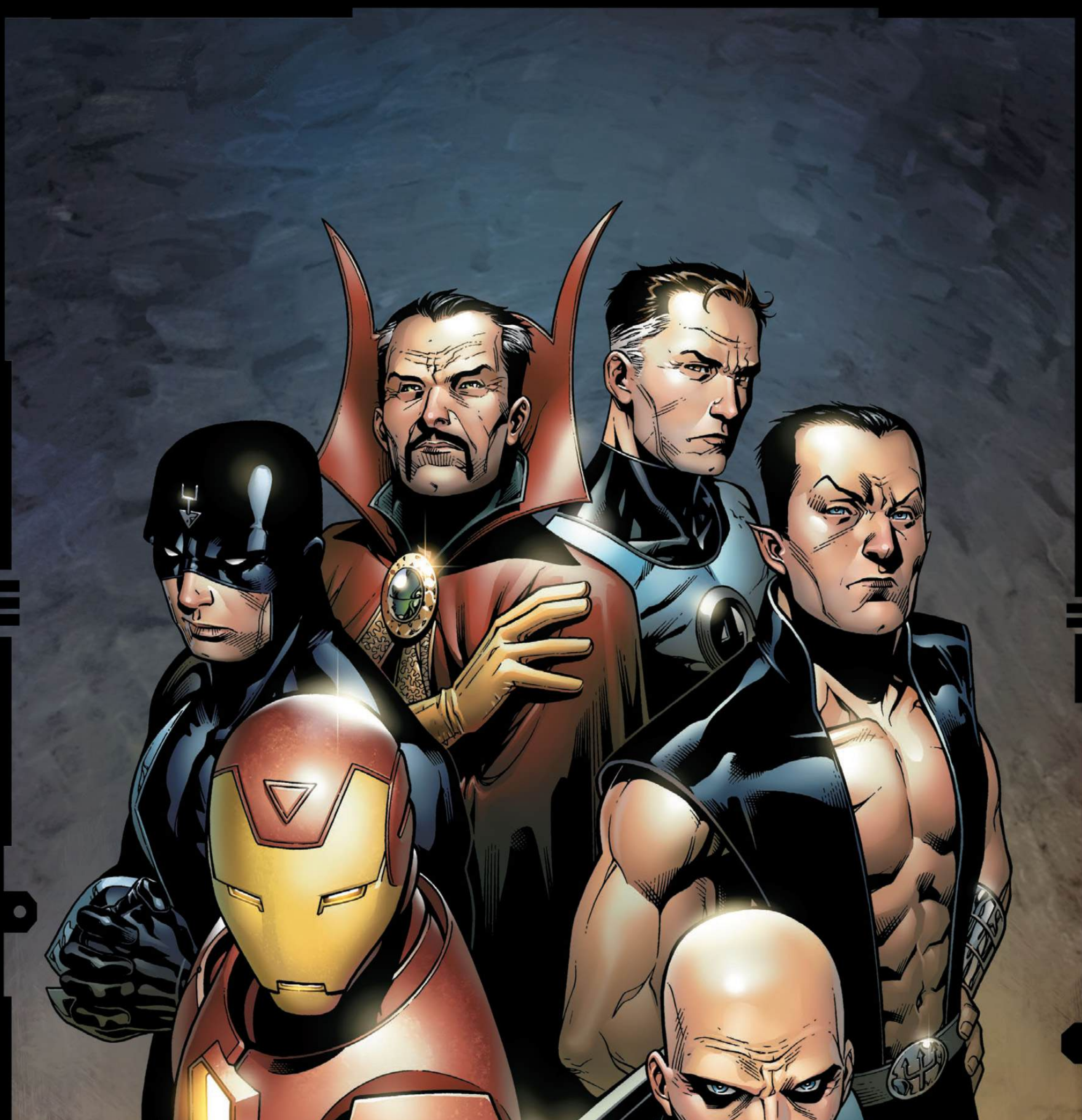
WWAAAARRGGGHHH!!
SOMEBODY, PLEASE, MY...
AARRGGHH!
OH, GAAAGGHH!
SOMEBB-AAGGH!
AAAIIEE!
WHAT'S GOIIAAAA!
RRAAAAGGHH!!

7th Avenue
34th Avenue
ONE WAY
BULLDOGSKATES.CO

THERE IS A SKRULL IN THIS ROOM.
ONE OF YOU.
ONE OF YOU IS HERE TO *KILL* ME.
ONE OF YOU.
ONE OF YOU.
ALL BIOLOGICAL LIFE FORMS MATCH S.H.I.E.L.D. BIO-FILES.
ONE OF YOU.
MISTER STARK.

LINDY. HOW'S BOB?
GOOD DAYS AND BAD DAYS.
AND TODAY?
TODAY I--
I LOVE BOB.
I KNOW.
VERY MUCH.
I KNOW.
SO, WILL YOU DO ME A *FAVOR?*
FIND A WAY TO POWER HIM *DOWN* OR *KILL* HIM BEFORE HE KILLS US ALL.
S.H.I.E.L.D. ALERT.
S.H.I.E.L.D. ALERT.
TONY?!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM AT THE HELICARRIER, COMMANDER HILL?
OH, YOU GOT A WHOLE THING GOING ON RIGHT IN NEW YORK CITY.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO...

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!


MORALES·J·P·O
VIII·MMVI

NEW AVENGERS: ILLUMINATI #1

THE NEW AVENGERS

ILLUMINATI

YEARS AGO, A WAR BETWEEN THE KREE AND THE SKRULLS, TWO INTERSTELLAR RACES OF UNIMAGINABLY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, RAGED NOT ONLY ACROSS THE STARS, BUT ON THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH ITSELF.

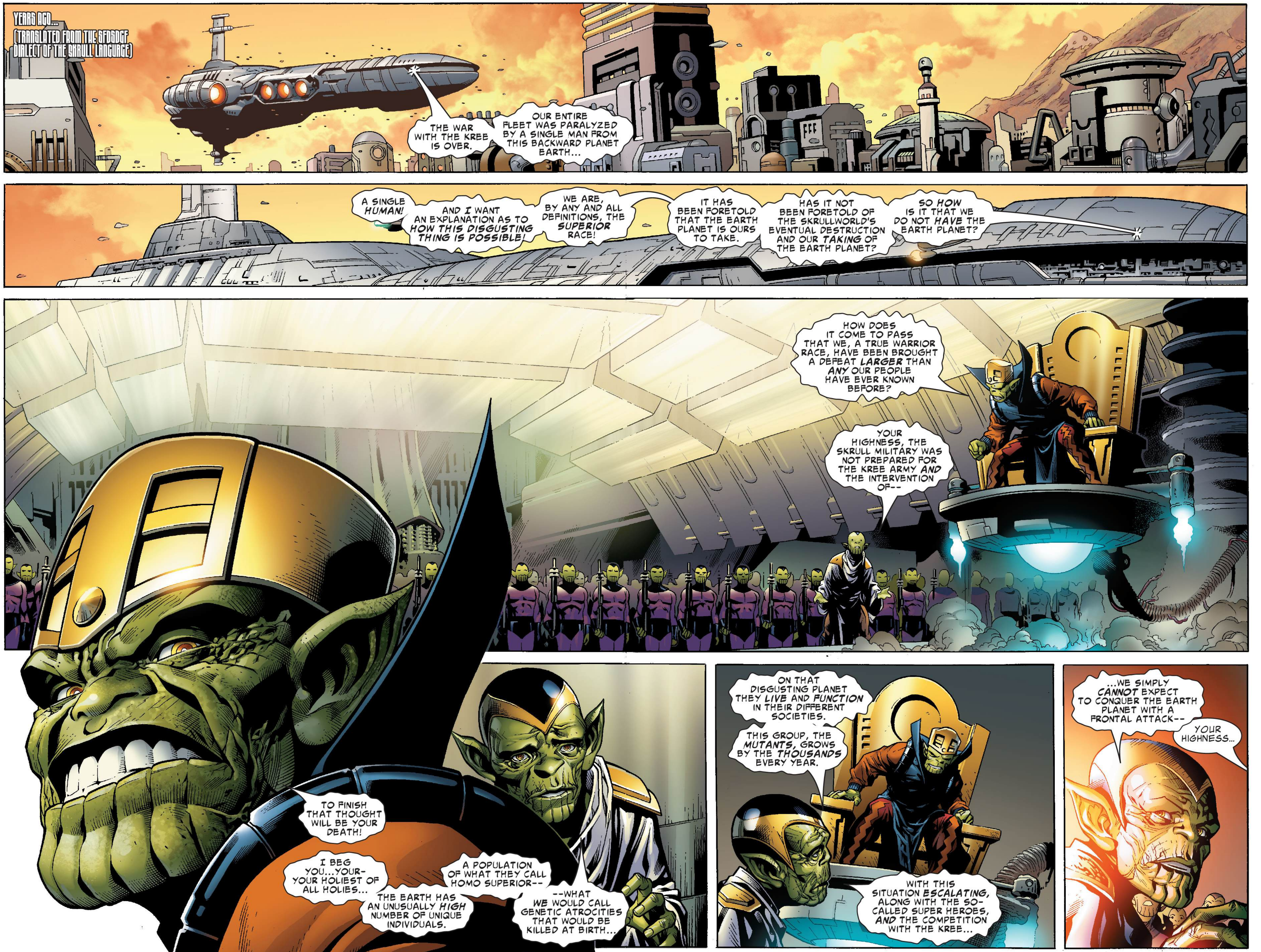
THE MIGHTY AVENGERS WERE ABLE TO KEEP THE THREAT AT BAY, EVENTUALLY DISABLING THE SKRULL ATTACK FLEET AND BRINGING THE CONFLICT TO AN END.

THE ILLUMINATI IS A SECRET ORGANIZATION COMPRISED OF SEVERAL OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL HEROES: SORCERER SUPREME DOCTOR STRANGE; BLACK BOLT, KING OF THE INHUMANS; CHARLES XAVIER, FOUNDER OF THE X-MEN AND MUTANT-RIGHTS ACTIVIST; REED RICHARDS, FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR; NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER, RULER OF ATLANTIS; AND IRON MAN, FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE AVENGERS.

THESE SIX MEN HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO MOLD AND SHAPE THE STATUS OF THE SUPERHUMAN WORLD AND THE WORLD AROUND IT.

TO KEEP THE TRUST BETWEEN THE GROUP MEMBERS, THE ILLUMINATI'S EXISTENCE IS A SECRET FROM EVERYONE, INCLUDING THEIR TEAMMATES AND FAMILIES.

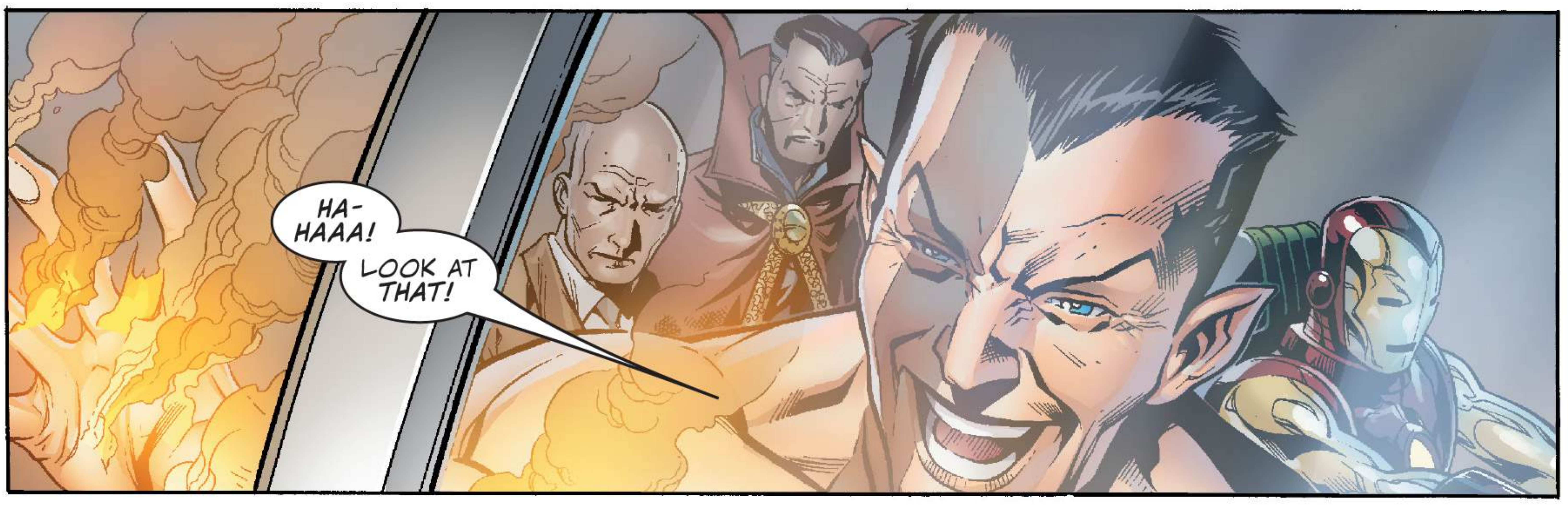
HOW AND WHAT THEY HAVE DONE TOGETHER HAS REMAINED A MYSTERY... UNTIL NOW...

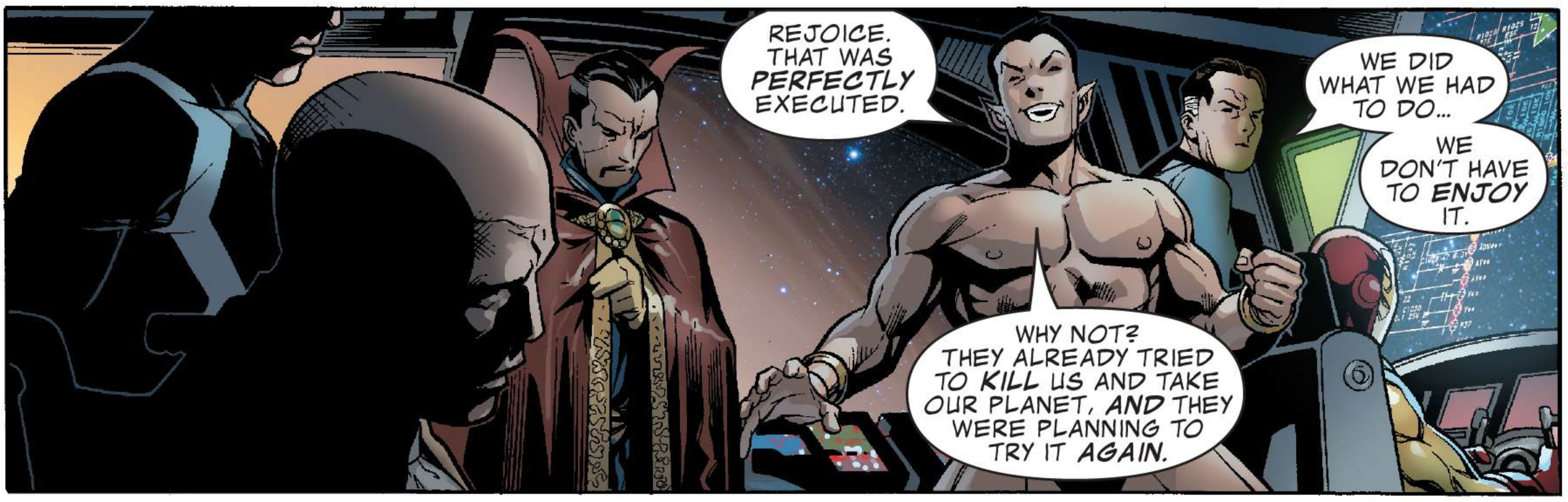

YEARS AGO...
(TRANSLATED FROM THE SFDSDGF DIALECT OF THE SKRULL LANGUAGE)
THE WAR WITH THE KREE IS OVER.
OUR ENTIRE FLEET WAS PARALYZED BY A SINGLE MAN FROM THIS BACKWARD PLANET EARTH...
A SINGLE *HUMAN!*
AND *I* WANT AN EXPLANATION AS TO *HOW THIS DISGUSTING THING IS POSSIBLE!*
WE ARE, BY ANY AND ALL DEFINITIONS, THE *SUPERIOR* RACE!
IT HAS BEEN FORETOLD THAT THE EARTH PLANET IS OURS TO TAKE.
HAS IT NOT BEEN FORETOLD OF THE SKRULLWORLD'S EVENTUAL DESTRUCTION AND OUR *TAKING* OF THE EARTH PLANET?
SO *HOW* IS IT THAT WE DO NOT *HAVE* THE EARTH PLANET?
HOW DOES IT COME TO PASS THAT WE, A TRUE WARRIOR RACE, HAVE BEEN BROUGHT A DEFEAT *LARGER* THAN *ANY* OUR PEOPLE HAVE EVER KNOWN BEFORE?
YOUR HIGHNESS, THE SKRULL MILITARY WAS NOT PREPARED FOR THE KREE ARMY *AND* THE INTERVENTION OF--
TO FINISH THAT THOUGHT WILL BE YOUR DEATH!
I BEG YOU...YOUR-- YOUR HOLIEST OF ALL HOLIES...
THE EARTH HAS AN UNUSUALLY *HIGH* NUMBER OF UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS.
A POPULATION OF WHAT THEY CALL HOMO SUPERIOR--
--WHAT *WE* WOULD CALL GENETIC ATROCITIES THAT WOULD BE KILLED AT BIRTH...
ON THAT DISGUSTING PLANET THEY *LIVE* AND *FUNCTION* IN THEIR DIFFERENT SOCIETIES.
THIS GROUP, THE *MUTANTS,* GROWS BY THE *THOUSANDS* EVERY YEAR.
WITH THIS SITUATION *ESCALATING,* ALONG WITH THE SO-CALLED SUPER HEROES, *AND* THE COMPETITION WITH THE KREE...
...WE SIMPLY *CANNOT* EXPECT TO CONQUER THE EARTH PLANET WITH A FRONTAL ATTACK--
YOUR HIGHNESS...

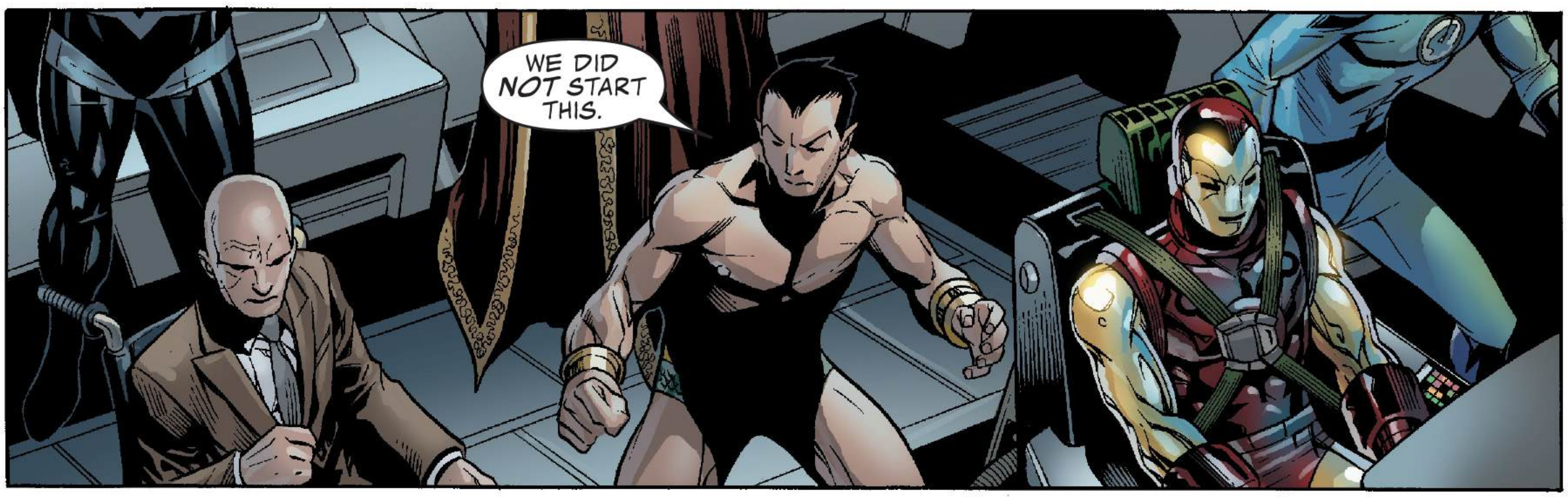
...MY NAME IS DOCTOR REED RICHARDS OF THE EARTH'S FANTASTIC FOUR.
AND I AM IRON MAN OF THE AVENGERS.
I AM PRINCE NAMOR, RULER OF ATLANTIS.
I AM DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS.
AND I AM PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER.
I AM ONE OF THE "GENETIC ATROCITIES" YOU WERE JUST REFERRING TO...
BESIDE ME IS BLACK BOLT, RULER OF THE INHUMANS.

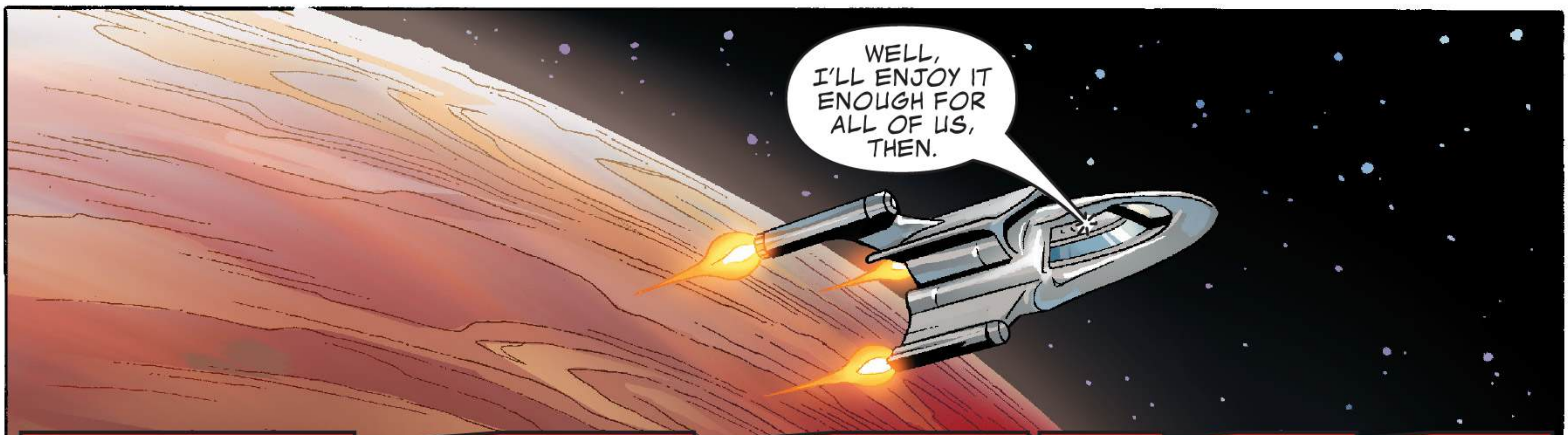
WE CAME HERE TO TELL YOU THAT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE ANOTHER INVASION ATTEMPT ON THE EARTH.
IF YOU EVEN SO MUCH AS APPROACH EARTH SPACE, IT WILL FORCE US TO GATHER AND COME AT YOU WITH MANPOWER YOU COULD NOT IMAGINE.
THIS IS A WARNING.
YOU COME AT US EVER AGAIN, AND WE'LL COME AT YOU.
HOW DARE YOU COME HERE AND THREATEN ME IN MY OWN HOME?
THE EARTH PLANET IS OURS!
I'M TELLING YOU, IT IS NOT AND NEVER WILL BE.
DO WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER?
EVERY SINGLE MEMBER OF YOUR SPECIES WILL DIE UNDER MY RULE.
AND YOUR FAMILIES...WILL BE THE FIRST BLOOD I TASTE.
WELL, OBVIOUSLY, I'M SORRY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.
DOCTOR...
I'M READY.
BLACK BOLT, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?

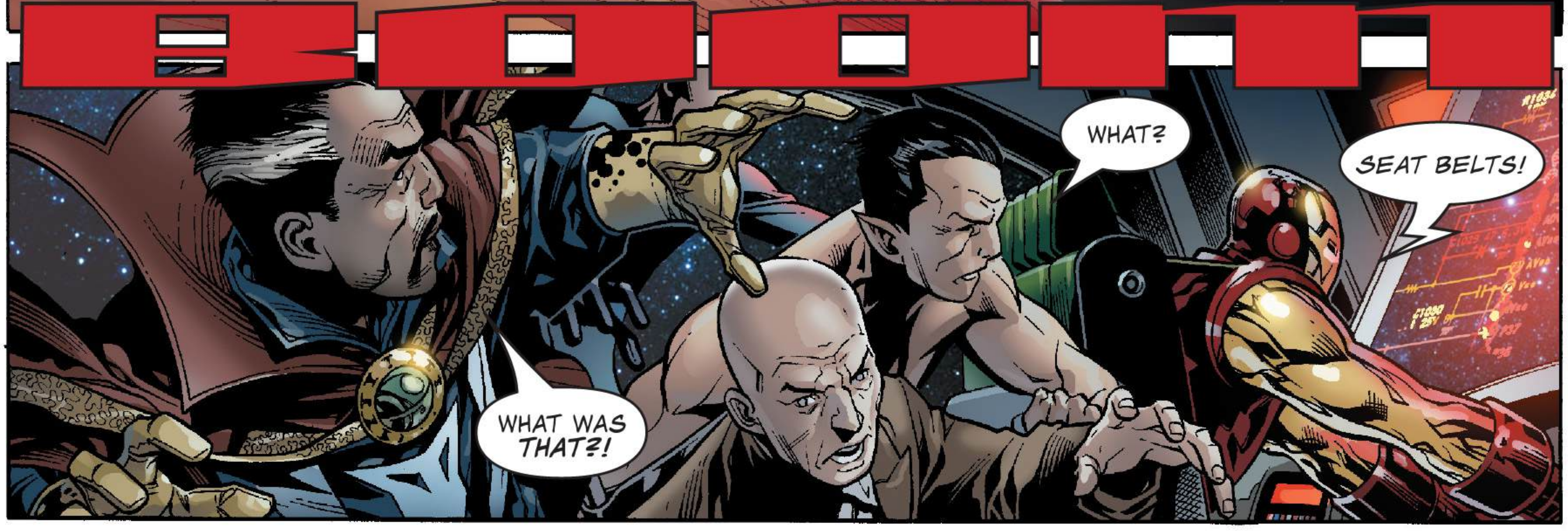
FAWWWWOOPH!
HOLD ON!


HA-HAAA!
LOOK AT THAT!


REJOICE. THAT WAS PERFECTLY EXECUTED.
WE DID WHAT WE HAD TO DO... WE DON'T HAVE TO ENJOY IT.
WHY NOT? THEY ALREADY TRIED TO KILL US AND TAKE OUR PLANET, AND THEY WERE PLANNING TO TRY IT AGAIN.


WE DID NOT START THIS.


WELL, I'LL ENJOY IT ENOUGH FOR ALL OF US, THEN.


WHAT?
SEAT BELTS!
WHAT WAS THAT?!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS SHIP WAS CLOAKED!
I THOUGHT IT WAS! DOCTOR?
BOOM
AGH!
I'M DOING WHAT I CAN!
I AM TRYING TO GET INSIDE THE PILOTS' MINDS AND FORCE THEM TO BREAK OFF THE ATTACK.
I JUST NEED A FEW MORE--
BOOM
DAMN!

TELL THE KING THAT TODAY IS A GOOD DAY FOR THE EMPIRE AFTER ALL.
OUR EARLY STUDIES AND SAMPLINGS OF THE EARTH PRISONERS ARE VERY INTERESTING.
THIS GROUP OF EARTH *"HEROES"* IS A GENEROUS GATHERING OF UNIQUE GENETIC SPECIMENS FOR US TO STUDY AND DISSECT.
WE FINALLY GET TO TEST OUR THEORIES ON REED RICHARDS' BIOLOGY.
INDEED.
I AM CURIOUS TO SEE JUST WHAT THE UPPER LIMITS OF HIS EXTENSION ARE...
AND NOW WE KNOW THAT THE ONE CALLED NAMOR IS NOT SO MUCH AN UNDERWATER SPECIES AS HE IS ACTUALLY WHAT *THEY* REFER TO AS HOMO SUPERIOR.
SUPERIOR?
WELL, TO A HUMAN.
KEEP THIS ONE'S MOISTURE LEVEL AT 0.9 PERCENT.
BUT DON'T KILL HIM UNTIL WE'VE GOTTEN WHAT WE NEED.
"SUPERIOR."
I KNOW. I ENJOYED THAT AS WELL.

THIS INHUMAN "BLACK BOLT'S" VOCAL CORDS HAVE BEEN IMMOBILIZED.
DID YOU TEAR THEM OUT?
NO.
WE HAVE YET TO DETERMINE *HOW* HE GENERATES SUCH A DESTRUCTIVE FORCE FROM SOUND WAVES.
TEARING THEM OUT WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH COULD DESTROY THE ENTIRE CITY-STATE.
THESE INHUMANS. THESE KREE-SPAWN. HAVE YOU READ ABOUT THEIR TERRIGEN MISTS?
IT'S SO PERVERSE.
HIS DEATH WILL BE LOVELY.
I'VE INVITED MY FAMILY.
NOW THIS MUTANT HAS PROVED EASIEST TO EXPLORE.
YES.
SINCE WE KNOW THE ORIGIN OF HIS POWERS IS THE MUTANT GENOME--
--BREAKING DOWN HIS DNA BEFORE WE DISSECT HIM IS NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
BUT THIS--THIS SORCERER--
THE MAGICIAN.
THIS CONFOUNDS US. WE HAD TO CALL IN THE PRIESTS FROM THE VOVCO ISLANDS. THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY.
THEN WE'LL OPEN HIM UP.
OH YES, RIGHT AFTER.
THE AVENGER IRON MAN--
HE IS JUST A FRAGILE, FLACCID HUMAN BEING WHO HAS ENCASED HIMSELF IN A RATHER PRIMITIVE ROBOTIC ARMOR.
WHILE ADVANCED BY HIS OWN CIVILIZATION'S STANDARDS--
--IT IS NOTHING OF CONCERN NOW THAT IT'S BEEN DISMANTLED.
IT'S TO GO IN THE ROYAL TROPHY ROOM.
THE ONLY INTERESTING ASPECT IS THAT THIS ARMOR WAS KEEPING STARK'S HEART VALVES WORKING.

"WE'LL SEE HOW LONG HE SURVIVES WITHOUT IT."
"THAT WILL BE FUN."
UNHHH... OKAY...
NEED TO BREATHE AND...
...JUST NEED TO FOCUS.
BOOM
BOOM
AAGGHH!
STOP THEM!
ZZAATOOOM

IRON MAN, IT SEEMS THOU ART IN NEED OF SOME FRIENDLY ASSISTANCE!
WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE YOU, PAL.
GET UP! WE GOT TO GO...NOW!
REALLY? WOW.
YOU KNOW...
...THE PROBLEM WITH THE SKRULL EMPIRE IS, YOU SEEM TO TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN ALWAYS UNDERESTIMATING YOUR OPPONENTS.
IN OTHER WORDS, HOW DUMB DO YOU THINK I AM?
I TOLD YOU THIS WAS A WASTE OF TIME!
THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO GET INFORMATION FROM HIM. WE HAVE TO DISSECT HIM, AND THAT'S--
NO. NO, WAIT.
THIS IS INTERESTING.
WHY--?
BECAUSE HE--HE DOESN'T EXPECT HIS TEAMMATES TO COME RESCUE HIM.
NO ONE KNOWS THEY CAME HERE.
NO ONE'S COMING TO RESCUE HIM!
CRACK
AGH!

AAAGGH!
CRUNCH
SMAK
GARRGGH!
FUMP
AAAGGH!
THANKS FOR THE COMBAT TRAINING, CAP.

SCHOOM
SCHOOM
SCHOOM
AAGGH! AGGHH!
YEARRGGHH!
NOOO!
YOU OKAY, CHARLES?
NOOOO...
NNN... STOPPP...
CHARLES? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO. NOT REALLY.
STOP...
YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO SEE MY ARMOR?
NO.
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?
TONY, YOUR HEART...
YOU AREN'T GOING TO MAKE IT MUCH--
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
THAT WAY...

GUH!
I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HIT SOMETHING.
SCHOOM
SCHOOM
BE MY GUEST.
HOW MANY SHIPS?
NO.
THE ARMADA HAS BEEN CALLED. WE HAVE TO LEAVE.
THE ARMADA. ALL OF THEM.
THE EYE. WE CAN'T LEAVE THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO.
GO!
TONY!
ARGH!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH HIM?
IT'S HIS HEART. HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS ARMOR.
TONY! LOOK AT ME! LOOK AT MY EYES!
FRADANAZ TYLYU!
NOW LET'S GO.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME, DOCTOR?
SCHOOM
JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING TO KEEP YOUR HEART PUMPING TILL WE GET HOME.
LET'S JUST GRAB RICHARDS AND GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE--
SCHOOM
DON'T PUSH IT, TONY, IT'S ONLY...
OH MY GOD...

UH...
SCHOOM
MONSTERS!
BOOM
WHICH ONE DO WE TAKE?
THE *BIG* ONE.
CAN YOU FLY A SKRULL SHIP?
IT'S A LONG WAY HOME.
THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE WAY I'LL EVER KNOW FOR SURE.
HOLD ON!
BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF...

BLACK BOLT WANTS YOU TO OPEN THE BACK POD-BAY!
NO! WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE!
DOCTOR, CAN YOU CAST AN ILLUSION SPELL OF SOME KIND?!
NOTHING THAT--*AGH*--THAT WILL FOOL THAT MANY--
WHAT IF I HELP "*SELL*" IT PSYCHICALLY?
THE IMAGES OF IKONN...

GALACTUS!
NOOO!

THEY WILL COME FOR US.
THEY WERE COMING FOR US ALREADY.
NAMOR IS RIGHT.
BUT, HEY, WE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IF THEY ***DO*** COME AT US, THE FIGHT WILL BE A REAL ***FIGHT.***
MAYBE NOW THEY'LL LOOK FOR SOMEONE ***ELSE*** TO PICK ON.
WELL, AT LEAST NOW THEY KNOW IT'LL BE A ***GOOD*** FIGHT.

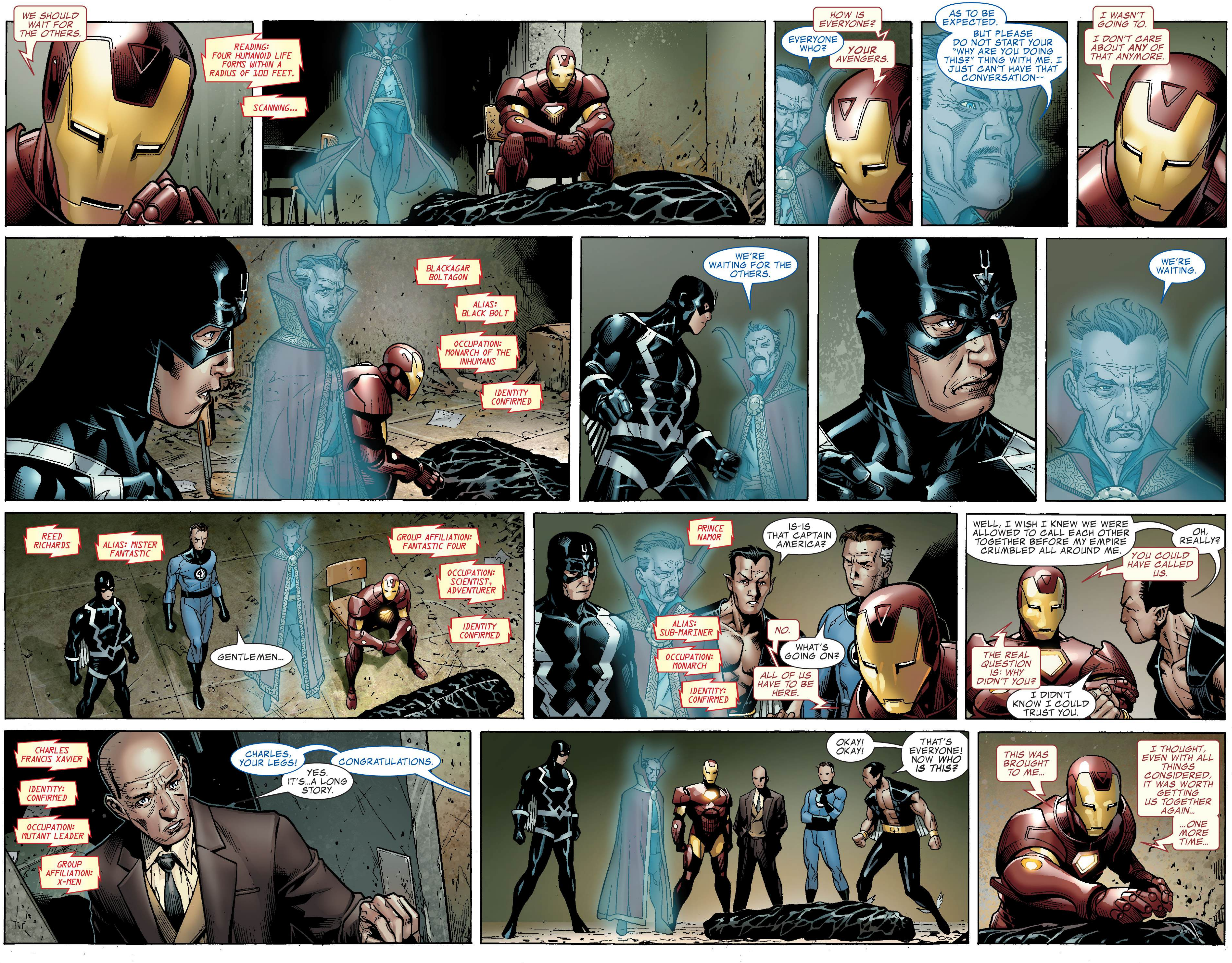
YOUR EXCELLENCE. THE DAMAGE REPORT IS...
STOP.
DID WE GET WHAT WE NEEDED FROM THEM?
YES, YOUR EXCELLENCE.
THEN IT WAS WORTH IT.
TELL THE PRIESTS OF THE SCIENCES TO GET TO WORK.
THEY KNOW WHAT TO DO.
TELL THEM NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES--
I'LL WAIT.

MORALES · J-Po · V·MMVII

NEW AVENGERS: ILLUMINATI #5

FUNTIME INC
A STARK ENTERPRISES SUBSIDIAR
ENERGY FLUCTUATION DETECTED.
ENERGY FLUCTUATION MATCHES DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE'S PROJECTION FROM THE ASTRAL PLANE.
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED. DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE
OCCUPATION: SORCERER SUPREME
DOCTOR...
WHOSE BODY IS THAT?

I DIDN'T THINK *YOU'D* SHOW UP.
Funtine
AFTER THE HULK AND THE CIVIL WAR--
--I NEVER THOUGHT *YOU'D* TRY TO CALL US BACK *TOGETHER* AGAIN.
AND YET HERE YOU ARE.
CURIOSITY... GOT THE BETTER OF ME.
WELL, SOME OF YOU.
I'M ON THE ASTRAL PLANE.
I THOUGHT IT BEST IF THERE WAS A BARRIER BETWEEN US.
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.
WHO *IS* THAT?


WE SHOULD WAIT FOR THE OTHERS.
READING: FOUR HUMANOID LIFE FORMS WITHIN A RADIUS OF 100 FEET.
SCANNING...
HOW IS EVERYONE?
EVERYONE WHO?
YOUR AVENGERS.
AS TO BE EXPECTED.
BUT PLEASE DO NOT START YOUR "WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?" THING WITH ME. I JUST CAN'T HAVE THAT CONVERSATION--
I WASN'T GOING TO.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT ANYMORE.
BLACKAGAR BOLTAGON
ALIAS: BLACK BOLT
OCCUPATION: MONARCH OF THE INHUMANS
IDENTITY CONFIRMED
WE'RE WAITING FOR THE OTHERS.
WE'RE WAITING.
REED RICHARDS
ALIAS: MISTER FANTASTIC
GROUP AFFILIATION: FANTASTIC FOUR
OCCUPATION: SCIENTIST, ADVENTURER
IDENTITY CONFIRMED
GENTLEMEN...
PRINCE NAMOR
IS-IS THAT CAPTAIN AMERICA?
ALIAS: SUB-MARINER
OCCUPATION: MONARCH
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED
NO.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ALL OF US HAVE TO BE HERE.
WELL, I WISH I KNEW WE WERE ALLOWED TO CALL EACH OTHER TOGETHER BEFORE MY EMPIRE CRUMBLED ALL AROUND ME.
OH, REALLY?
YOU COULD HAVE CALLED US.
THE REAL QUESTION IS: WHY DIDN'T YOU?
I DIDN'T KNOW I COULD TRUST YOU.
CHARLES FRANCIS XAVIER
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED
OCCUPATION: MUTANT LEADER
GROUP AFFILIATION: X-MEN
CHARLES, YOUR LEGS!
CONGRATULATIONS.
YES. IT'S...A LONG STORY.
OKAY! OKAY!
THAT'S EVERYONE! NOW WHO IS THIS?
THIS WAS BROUGHT TO ME...
I THOUGHT, EVEN WITH ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, IT WAS WORTH GETTING US TOGETHER AGAIN...
...ONE MORE TIME...

JESSICA DREW BROUGHT THIS SKRULL TO ME. THE NEW AVENGERS FOUND IT IN JAPAN.
THAT'S TRUE. I WAS THERE.
AND *YOU* WEREN'T GOING TO BRING IT TO ME?
NO ONE IN MY GROUP TRUSTS YOU. THEY ALL THINK *YOU* MIGHT BE A SKRULL, GIVEN YOUR RECENT BEHAVIOR.
WHAT IS IT WEARING?
IT WAS POSING AS ELEKTRA.
ELEKTRA?
NATCHIOS. DAREDEVIL'S EX-GIRLFRIEND, KINGPIN'S EX-RIGHT HAND.
SHE--IT WAS RUNNING THE HAND AND QUIETLY WRESTING CONTROL OF THE JAPANESE UNDERWORLD.
ELEKTRA WAS A SKRULL. FOR HOW LONG?
I DON'T KNOW.
WHERE'S THE REAL ELEKTRA?
DEAD. GONE. I DON'T KNOW.
BELIEVE ME, I HAVE LOOKED. I PUT THE ENTIRETY OF S.H.I.E.L.D. BEHIND IT. SHE IS NOT TO BE FOUND.
I BROUGHT THIS TO YOU BECAUSE I THINK WE'RE AT WAR--
WAR?
AND I THINK IT'S OUR FAULT.
AND THIS IS OUR FAULT HOW?

YOU KNOW WHAT WE DID.
NO.
WE ENTERED THEIR HOMEWORLD.
NO.
WE DESTROYED THEIR--
NO, THEY STARTED IT.
OH, WELL, THEN...
THEY DID.
WHAT IRON MAN WANTS TO SAY--WHAT I AM SURE JESSICA DREW TOLD YOU--IS THAT THIS ELEKTRA SKRULL WAS UNDETECTABLE BY WOLVERINE'S MUTANT POWER, MY MAGIC, OR SPIDER-MAN'S SENSES.
WELL, THAT'S FASCINATING.
WE'LL HAVE TO CUT IT OPEN AND START AN AUTOPSY.
YES. YES.
WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO DETECT THEM.
SO ONE SKRULL IN ALL THE WORLD DRESSES UP LIKE A WOMAN AND WE'RE AT WAR?
YES.
THAT'S QUITE A LEAP.
ONE SKRULL THAT WE'VE FOUND.
ONE SKRULL AND YOU ASSUME--
THAT WE'VE FOUND.
AFTER WHAT WE DID? I AM GOING TO ASSUME THE VERY WORST. YES.
UNLESS IT'S JUST ONE WORKING ON ITS OWN, STRANDED HERE, TRYING TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT.
THINK ABOUT-- THINK ABOUT THE YEAR WE'VE HAD.
THE AVENGERS DESTROYED. WE'RE FIGHTING EACH OTHER. THE MUTANTS ARE ALL BUT GONE. ATLANTIS...
NICK FURY IS OUT.
AND CAPTAIN AMERICA IS DEAD.
THINK OF ALL THAT...
...AND YOU TELL ME IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE WE'RE BEING WORKED OVER? MANIPULATED FROM WITHIN?

IT COULD ALSO JUST BE...THIS ONE THING.
CAPTAIN AMERICA IS DEAD!
YES. AND SO IS THIS SKRULL.
EVERYTHING IS UPSIDE DOWN!
AND THIS-- THIS IS THE KEY!
OKAY. WE CUT IT OPEN. DISSECT IT DOWN TO A MOLECULAR LEVEL. FIND A WAY TO DETECT THESE THINGS.
BASED ON WHAT WE FIND, WE START MAKING PLANS.
WE PLAN FOR THE WORST. WE PLAN FOR HOW TO HUNT THEM. HOW TO STOP THEM.
AND LET'S BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED IF IT WAS ALL UNNECESSARY--
ACTUALLY, I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.
I TAKE THE BODY.
AND YOUR PEOPLE DIE SO THAT MY PEOPLE CAN LIVE...
MASSIVE ENERGY FLUCTUATION DETEC--

COUGH...
COUGH...
ENERGY RESERVES AT 22 PERCENT. RECHARGING.
UNIDENTIFIED ALIEN LIFE FORM DETECTED.
YOU ARE CORRECT IN THAT...

THIS WORLD *HAS* BEEN TAKEN FROM YOU.
AS IT WAS WRITTEN, IT IS NOW DONE.

IMPERIUS REX!
GRRAGH!
WHABOOM
ENERGY RESERVES AT 23 PERCENT.
HE'S MOVING FASTER THAN MY TARGETING SOFTWARE CAN READ. DOCTOR?
I'M CONJURING A CONTAINMENT SPELL.
FAKOOM
DOCTOR...
HOLD ON...
ENERGY FIELD AT 11 PERCENT.
YOU MONSTER--

MONSTER?
I AM YOU.
BUT MORE.
NYYAAAAHHHH!
TONY, IT WANTS THE SKRULL BODY, GET IT AND YOU AND GET OUT OF HERE!
YOU ARE INCORRECT.
CYTTORAK'S CRIMSON BANDS!

NNNNNAAA!
I HAVE CONTAINED THE BEAST!
NO.
STRANGE!
NYAAAAHH--
DIE, YOU SKRULL $%#@!

GAAGGH!
YOU CANNOT SNAP THE NECK OF A SHAPE-SHIFTER.
I KNOW.
I WAS DISTRACTING YOU.
CHUNK
YOU KILLED IT?!
DEAR LORD...
IT WAS TRYING TO KILL US.
IT HAD INFORMATION--
YOU SAID YOURSELF THAT WE ARE AT WAR!
AND THAT WAS A POTENTIAL PRISONER OF WAR!
SORRY!
ENERGY FLUCTUATION DETECTED.
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED. DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE
OCCUPATION: SORCERER SUPREME
I GOT BACK AS SOON AS I COULD.
I-I WASN'T PREPARED FOR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. MY POWERS AREN'T WHAT THEY--
NAMOR'S RIGHT. THERE WAS NO WAY WE WERE GOING TO CONTAIN THAT THING.
WHAT IS OUR NEXT STEP?
ALIEN LIFE FORMS DETECTED.
OH NO.
GENETIC TYPE UNIDENTIFIED.
GUYS!

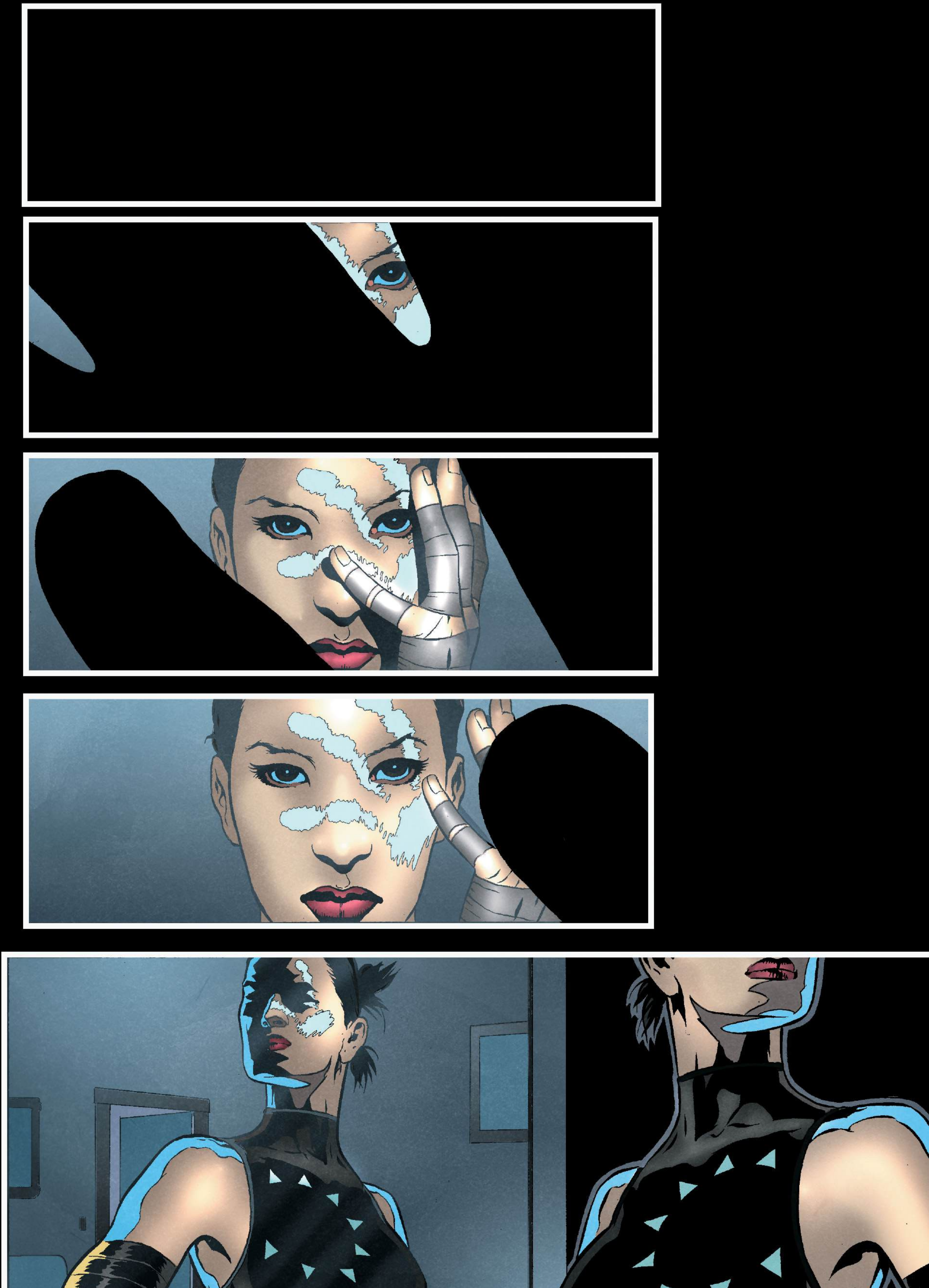
HE WASN'T ALONE.
SHIELDS UP!
SHIELD ENERGY AT 66 PERCENT.
C-STAT NUCLEAR UPLINK ACTIVATED.
CHARLES, LISTEN TO MY THOUGHTS.
CONNECTED: SALEM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
HAVE STRANGE READY. WHEN I GIVE THE WORD, HAVE HIM TELEPORT THE FOUR OF YOU OUT OF HERE.
ENERGY FIELDS AT 33 PERCENT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
CONNECTED: OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR POWER STATION.
JUST TELL HIM.
ENERGY FIELDS AT 7 PERCENT.
TARGETING?
HOLD PLEASE.
ENERGY FIELDS AT 2 PERCENT.
CONNECTED: HOPE CREEK NUCLEAR.
READY.
POWER CORE AT MAXIMUM CAPACITY.
NOW!!
TONY, I--
DO IT! NOW!

FABOOM
TONY?

THEY DIDN'T KNOW I COULD DO THAT.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD DO THAT.
NOW **THEY** KNOW. IT WON'T WORK TWICE.
ARE THERE MORE COMING?
AREA SECURE.
NOT YET.
HOW **DID** YOU DO THAT?
I-I COULDN'T READ ITS THOUGHTS.
ITS THOUGHTS WERE THAT OF "BLACK BOLT" OR...OR THEY WERE ABLE TO MAKE ME **THINK** THEY WERE.
WHERE IS THE **REAL** BLACK BOLT?
THE PLAN TODAY WAS TO ASSASSINATE US SO WE HAVE TO ASSUME THE WORST.
BUT HOW LONG WAS THAT ONE POSING AS BLACK BOLT?
MAYBE FROM THE DAY WE WENT TO THEM...
NO. THE PLAN WASN'T TO ASSASSINATE US. THEY COULD HAVE SENT AN **ARMY** OF SOUPED-UP SUPER-SKRULLS HERE AND DONE THAT.
THE PLAN WAS TO TURN US AGAINST EACH OTHER.
AND IF THEY PICKED A COUPLE OF US OFF IN THE MEANTIME, HEY, WHAT THE HELL...
MAYBE.
BUT WHAT ARE THEY DOING **DIFFERENT?** WHY **CAN'T** WE TELL THEM APART FROM US--?
WHY US?
WHY ARE THEY SINGLING US OUT?

BECAUSE, LIKE I TOLD YOU THE DAY WE FIRST GATHERED...
...TO THEM, WE ARE THE PROTECTORS OF THE WORLD.
AREA SECURE. NO ALIEN LIFE FORMS IDENTIFIED.
WE ARE THE KINGS. WE ARE THE LEADERS.
WHEN THEY CAPTURED US YEARS AGO...IT SEEMS THAT THEY TOOK FROM US WHAT THEY NEEDED TO STRIKE AT US AGAIN.
WELL, WE BETTER START GATHERING WHAT WE NEED.
WE HAVE A DAY AT BEST.
WE ARE AT WAR AND WE HAVE MAYBE ALREADY LOST THAT WAR.
I DON'T TRUST ANY OF YOU!
HE'S RIGHT.
WE'D BE KIDDING EACH OTHER TO EVEN CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION.
WHO CAN WE TRUST?

NEW AVENGERS #39



I AIN'T A SKRULL, MAYA.
I DIDN'T SAY YOU WERE.
YOU'RE THINKING...
...HE'S NEVER EVEN ONCE MENTIONED OUR PAST.
DOES HE *KNOW* ABOUT OUR PAST? IS *THAT* WHY HE HASN'T MENTIONED IT?
IS IT REALLY HIM?
I AIN'T MENTIONED IT BECAUSE I'M A GENTLEMAN. THAT'S ALL.
I'M NOT AS CONVINCED AS YOU THAT WE'RE INVOLVED IN THIS CONSPIRACY. THIS SKRULL THING.
I THINK YOU-- ALL OF YOU--*WANT* TO BE SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT A DISASTER OUR LIVES HAVE BECOME.
UH... NOPE.
MY LIFE'S ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL OF DISASTER IT *ALWAYS* WAS.
CAPTAIN AMERICA IS DEAD.
AND WE'RE HIDING.

YEAH, WELL... SKRULLS ARE STILL COMIN'.
YOU THINK.
I LIVED THIS LONG. I KNOW SOME STUFF.
SO WE'RE JUST SITTING HERE AND WAITING FOR IT TO HAPPEN.
CAN'T SMELL THEM, CAN'T SEE THEM. CAN'T TRUST ANYONE OUTSIDE THIS PLACE NOT TO BE ONE.
PSKT
WHEN THEY COME, BE READY...
I'M GOING OUT.
HEY, WAIT...
JUST SO'S YOU KNOW...
HALF THE REASON I HOOKED BACK UP WITH THESE GUYS AFTER CAP WENT AND GOT HIMSELF POPPED WAS...
...I WASN'T GOING TO LET THEM LEAVE *YOU* OUT THERE IN JAPAN TO FEND FOR YOURSELF.
DON'T HIT ON ME, LOGAN.
HEY!
I WASN'T.
I WAS BEING *NICE* TO YOU.
I MEAN IT.
YEAH.
OH.
SORRY.
I'M NOT GOING TO HIT ON YOU.
YOU'LL HIT ON *ME.*
NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THAT.
IT'S MY CURSE.

NELSON
MURDOC
& BLAK
ATTORNEYS
AT LAW

HI, MAYA.
MATT MURDOCK! I WASN'T SURE YOU WERE BACK IN AMERICA.
WHERE'VE *YOU* BEEN HIDING?
ON A ROAD YOU *PUT* ME ON.
YOU'RE STILL WITH LUKE CAGE AND THE OTHERS?
YES, I AM.
STILL?
YES. STILL.
YOU'RE-- YOU'RE LIKE THIS WHOLE REBEL SUPER HERO PERSON NOW.
YOU'RE AN AVENGER.
I'M *WITH* THEM. DON'T KNOW IF IT MAKES ME *ONE* OF THEM.
YET.
WERE YOU COMING AROUND LOOKING FOR ME?
I HAD TO--
I NEED TO KNOW...
WHY DID YOU SEND CAPTAIN AMERICA TO ME?

CAPTAIN AMERICA'S DEAD.
YES.
I-I MEAN...
OH! OH!
YOU MEAN *BEFORE.*
YEAH.
IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
IT WORKED OUT, RIGHT? LOOK AT YOU.
RIGHT?
AND WHO ARE YOU *REALLY?*

YOU'RE JUST A HUMAN GIRL.
DON'T TURN THIS INTO A SITUATION.

WELL, I DID *WARN* YOU.
FROOM
AGH!

AGH!
CLANG
I'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME STUDYING YOU.
PLEASE, I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU ANY MORE THAN IS NECESSARY.
JUST LET WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN HAPPEN.
PISSH
@#$!
COME ON!
HAAI!
SLICE
MAYA, AGH!
THIS-- THIS IS NOT A FIGHT YOU CAN WIN.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

AGH!
SURRENDER AND LET THIS BE DONE.
I REALLY *DO* ADMIRE YOU.
I'VE STUDIED YOU. I *DO* RESPECT YOU.
YOU'VE PULLED YOURSELF TOGETHER FROM NOTHING AND I *ADMIRE* THAT.
REALLY?
THEN YOU'LL GET A KICK OUT OF THIS.

SLICE
AAGGHH!

AHH!
TUMP
NO.

HHUURRGGHH!
NO!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR! YOU DON'T KNOW--
WE'RE TRAINED TO DIE.
BAMF
AGH!

EYES OPEN!
IT 'PORTED!
(SHE CAN'T HEAR ME...)
BAMF

HAAII!
PAK
CRACK
OOF!
NAAGH!
NGUUKK...
NO!
BAMF

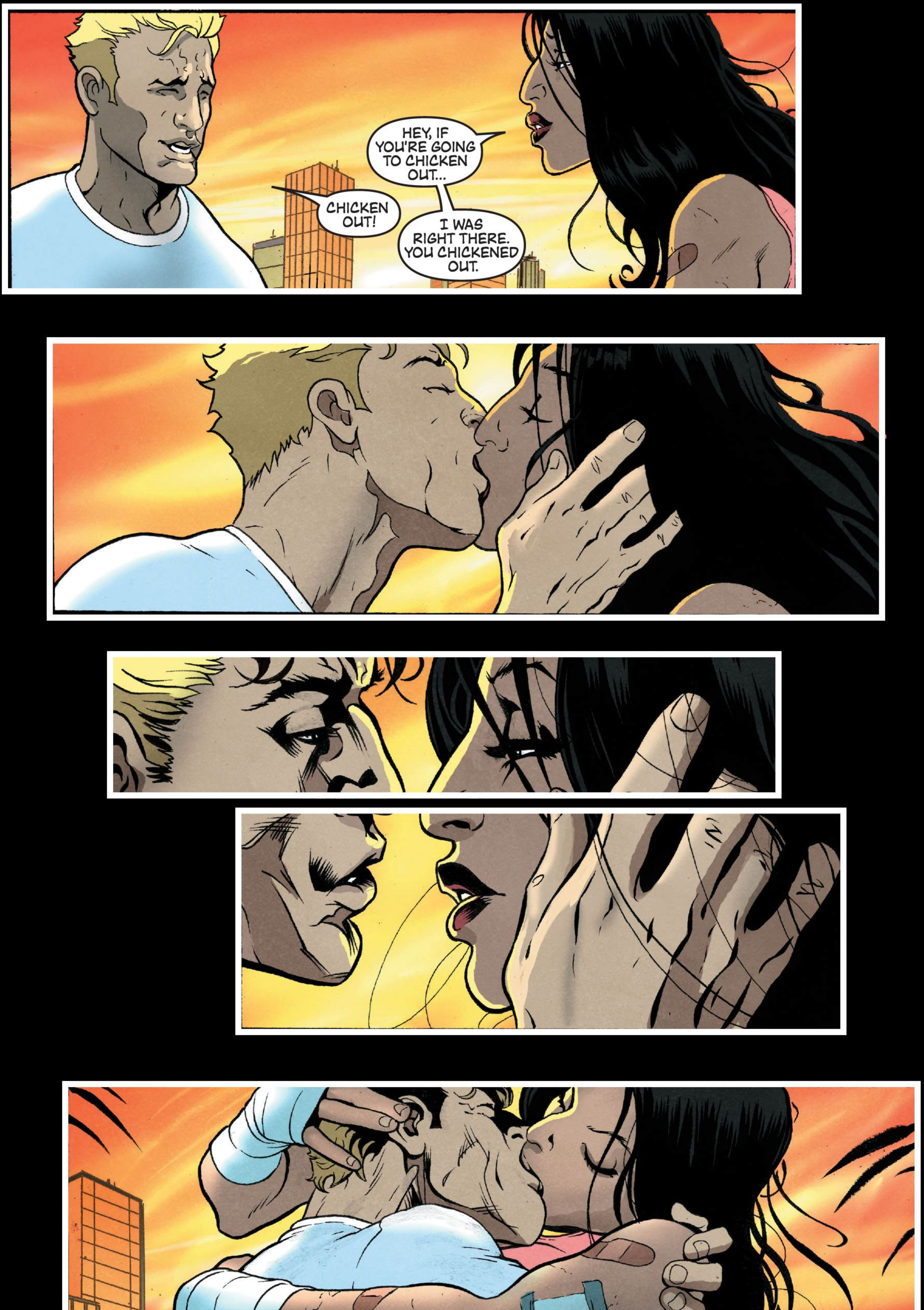
BAMF
NNN...
@#$$.
CYCLOPS EYE-BLAST, NIGHTCRAWLER 'PORTING, TORCH POWERS...
(OR FIRESTAR POWERS...)
IT WANTED ME.
YUP.
DAMN 'PORTERS.
CAN'T TRACK 'EM FOR @#$%.

NOW AGH DO YOU BELIEVE ME? TOLD YA THE SKRULLS ARE--
OH!
I GOT YOU.
GIVE ME A MINUTE.
I GOT YOU.
YOU WERE FOLLOWING ME?
YES I WAS. LUCKY FOR YOU.
WHY? 'CAUSE IF I OW IF I WAS A SKRULL LOOKING TO SINK THEIR CLAWS INTO OUR LITTLE TEAM, YOU'D BE THE ONE I'D GO AFTER.
YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT A' TIES. THE LEAST HISTORY.
YOU'RE THE ONE I'D GRAB.
THEY WERE GOING TO KILL ME AND REPLACE ME.
YEAH, THEY WERE GOING TO SWITCH YOU OUT.
I WAS RIGHT, YOU WERE WRONG. AND YOU'RE WELCOME.

NOT EVERY DAY YOU GET TO BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF YOURSELF.
I GUESS SKRULLS ARE GOOD FOR *SOMETHING.*
HERE.
YOU OKAY, MAYA?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M *DOING* HERE.
I KNOW THE FEELING.
UH-HUH.
I *DO.*
WHEN *I* FIRST JOINED THE AVENGERS AS HAWKEYE, I THOUGHT: OKAY, IT'S ME AND MY LITTLE ARROWS RIGHT NEXT TO THE REAL LIFE *GOD OF THUNDER...*
AND I'M GOING: WHAT THE @#$% IS MY EXPLODING ARROW GOING TO DO THAT LIGHTNING BOY WITH THE HAIR CAN'T DO?
BUT THEN...
THERE'S THIS MOMENT. SOMETHING HAPPENS.
YOU COULD BE ON YOUR OWN, OR PART OF THE TEAM, WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN...
...YOU ARE THE EXACT RIGHT PERSON FOR THE EXACT RIGHT MOMENT...
...AND YOU TAKE YOUR SHOT.
AND ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU KNOW. YOU'RE AN AVENGER. AND THAT'S...
LET'S BE HONEST...

THIS ISN'T THE AVENGERS.
WHERE YOU WERE--*THAT* WAS THE AVENGERS.
WELL, TRUE.
EXCEPT THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE SAID ABOUT THE AVENGERS WHEN *I* JOINED THE AVENGERS.
THE PRESS BASHED THE @#$% OUT OF US. BUT THEN, ONE DAY, EVERYONE'S SAYING... THAT THOSE WERE THE GLORY DAYS.
GLORY DAYS.
YEAH.
IT NEVER FEELS LIKE IT BUT THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU TURN AROUND AND IT'S TOMORROW... AND YESTERDAY WAS THE GLORY DAYS.
IN FACT, I THINK I'M GOING TO LOOK BACK ON *THIS* CONVERSATION RATHER FONDLY.
OH, YOU DO?
I DO.
HEY, UH... (SORRY...)
REMEMBER THE OTHER DAY...
WHEN I WALKED IN ON YOU IN THE SHOWER?

UH, NO.
I MEANT AFTER THE FIGHT WITH *THE HOOD.*
WHEN I WAS PATCHING YOUR ARM...
OH.
YEAH?
I, UH, I WANTED TO *KISS* YOU.
I KNOW.
YOU DID?
YEAH...
WOULD YOU HAVE MINDED?
NO.
WHY DIDN'T YOU *KISS ME* THEN?


HEY, IF YOU'RE GOING TO CHICKEN OUT...
CHICKEN OUT!
I WAS RIGHT THERE. YOU CHICKENED OUT.

"One's shape is a destination. One's shape is a divine experience of motion. One's shape is a tool of expression. One's shape is not meant to define that which makes you an individual. One shape is meaningless. One's shape is everything and everyone."

— THE BOOK OF WORLDS,
PASSAGE OF THE KKI
(TRANSLATED FROM THE FRTI DIALECT)

SECRET
INVASION

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.
CAPTAIN AMERICA IS DEAD.
AN ASSASSIN'S BULLET HAS ENDED THE LIFE AND CAREER OF ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S TRUE HEROES AND PATRIOTS.
I REPEAT, THE SHOCKING STORY THIS HOUR IS THAT--
AND YOU KNOW WHOSE FAULT IT IS?!!
I'LL TELL YA...
CAPTAIN AMERICA IS DEAD • BULLET ENDS LIFE AND CAREER OF "TRUE PATRIOT" • INVESTIGATION PENDING • A DAY OF MOURNING TO BE HELD • BODY TO BE LAID TO RE
RIGH!
NICK FURY!!
YOU HEARD ME!! THIS WHOLE THING!!
CIVIL WAR... HEROES FIGHTING HEROES...
SO I GUESS THAT MEANS HYDRA, AIM, DOCTOR DOOM, NAMOR AND WHAT'S HIS FACE... THE FAT GUY...
I GUESS ALL THOSE PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED!!
WE'RE FIGHTING EACH OTHER?!!
WE'RE KILLING CAPTAIN AMERICA?!
Lite
4F
SECURITY
MAN...
CAPTAIN AMERICA IS DEAD!! CAMELOT IS IN SMITHEREENS!!
AND I BLAME FURY!!
I'LL SAY IT. I'LL SAY IT RIGHT INTO HIS ONE GOOD EYE. NICK @#$% FURY.
HE LEFT US, MAN!!
SEC-4
WE'RE AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D. WE'RE HIS CHILDREN!!
DUDE..
HE LEFT!! HE UP AND LEFT AND SENT EVERYTHING OUT OF WHACK.
IF NICK @#$% FURY WAS HERE THAT REGISTRATION ACT WOULD NEVER'VE SEEN THE LIGHT A'DAY!!
IT WOULD'A BEEN WHAT HE WIPED HIS--
DUDE. NOT HERE...
WHY?!

SO?
THAT'S 'DUM-DUM' DUGAN. THAT'S FURY'S BOY. KEEP IT DOWN. RESPECT YOUR ELDERS.
HE LOOKS THE WAY I FEEL.
HE'S NOT *JUST* AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. HE WAS THE *FIRST*. HE WAS THE *BEST*. HE DOESN'T NEED TO HEAR YOUR BULL--
HE LOOKS LIKE HE *AGREES* WITH ME.
FURY LEFT AND GOT CAPTAIN AMERICA KILLED!!!
CREEE
CRASSSHH
EXIT

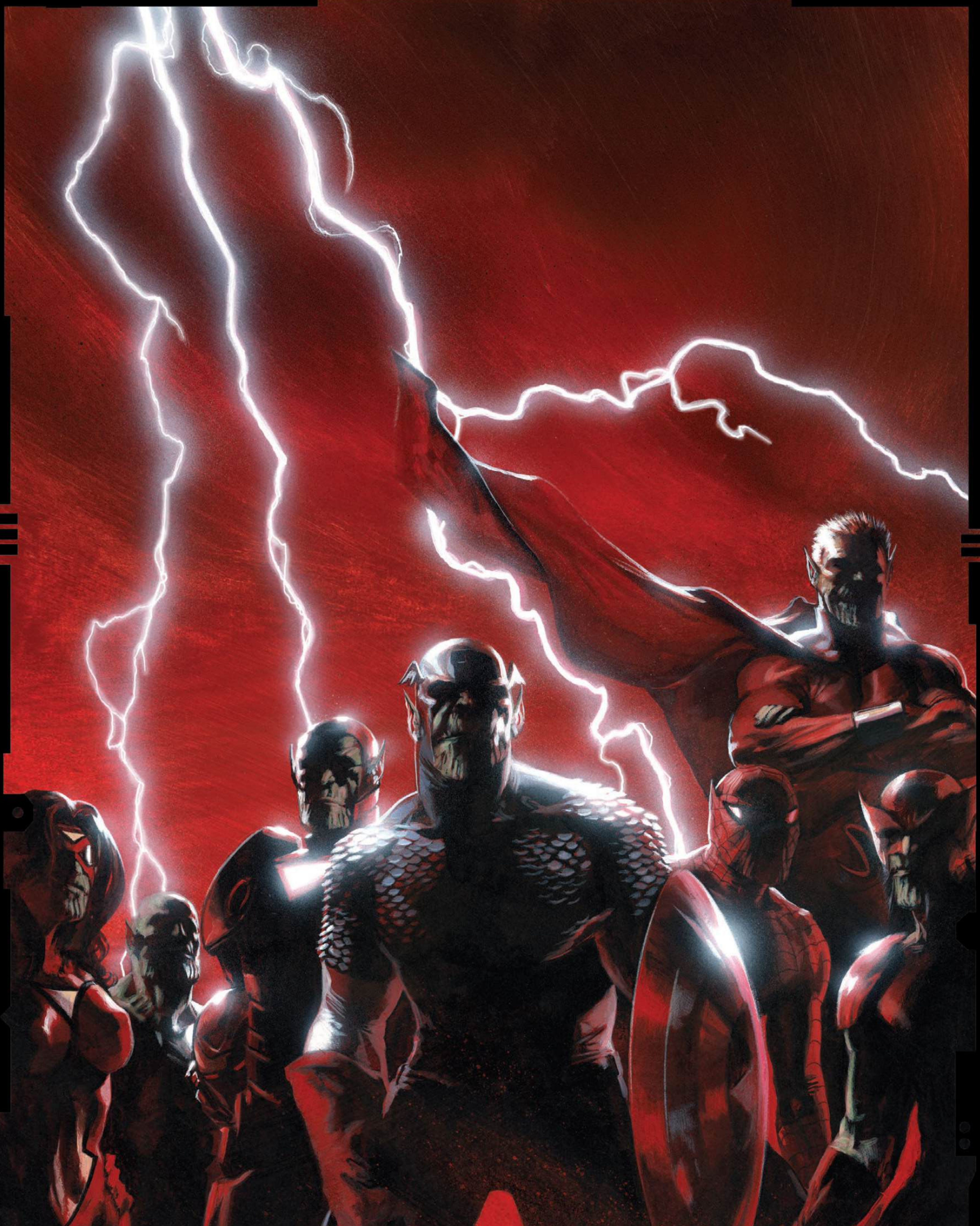
GKK! GOD!!
RATTLE

DON'T SHOOT, DUGAN.
COUNTESS VALENTINA ALLEGRA DEFONTAINE.
YOU--YOU--*WHERE* YOU BEEN?
MY FRIEND... IT IS SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.
WHERE YOU BEEN, VAL?
MADRIPOOR. I WAS COMING BACK WHEN I HEARD THE NEWS. IS IT TRUE? IS CAPTAIN AMERICA DEAD?
YEAH. IT'S TRUE.
NO, I MEAN...
...IS IT A TRICK? IS IT A--
IT'S HIM, VAL.
HE'S GONE.
DAMN IT.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO NOW, HUH?
WHERE YOU BEEN?
I JUST TOLD YOU. BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHY I WAS THERE. I WAS LOOKING FOR NICK.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?
SHIELD

I SWEAR TO GOD, VAL, I THOUGHT HE WAS WIT' YOU.
NO.
WELL, THAT SURPRISES ME. I WOULD'A BET MY LAST DONUT YOU GUYS FINALLY RAN OFF TOGETHER.
NO.
AND YOU HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM?
NO.
PLEASE, DUGE, I REALLY NEED TO-- I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE HE'S OKAY.
I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM. I SWEAR TO GOD.
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS.
SNIKT

GUUKK!
CHUCK
EBOOM
GGSSKK!!

SSHH...
DON'T WORRY.
HE LOVES YOU.



SECRET INVASION #1

"A wave of destruction. Nothingness. And out of nothingness will you outstretch your hand and take in that which needs you. Only then will the doors to the heavens open for you and your brothers."

— THE BOOK OF WORLDS,
PASSAGE OF THE 11
(TRANSLATED FROM THE FRTI DIALECT)

SECRET INVASION

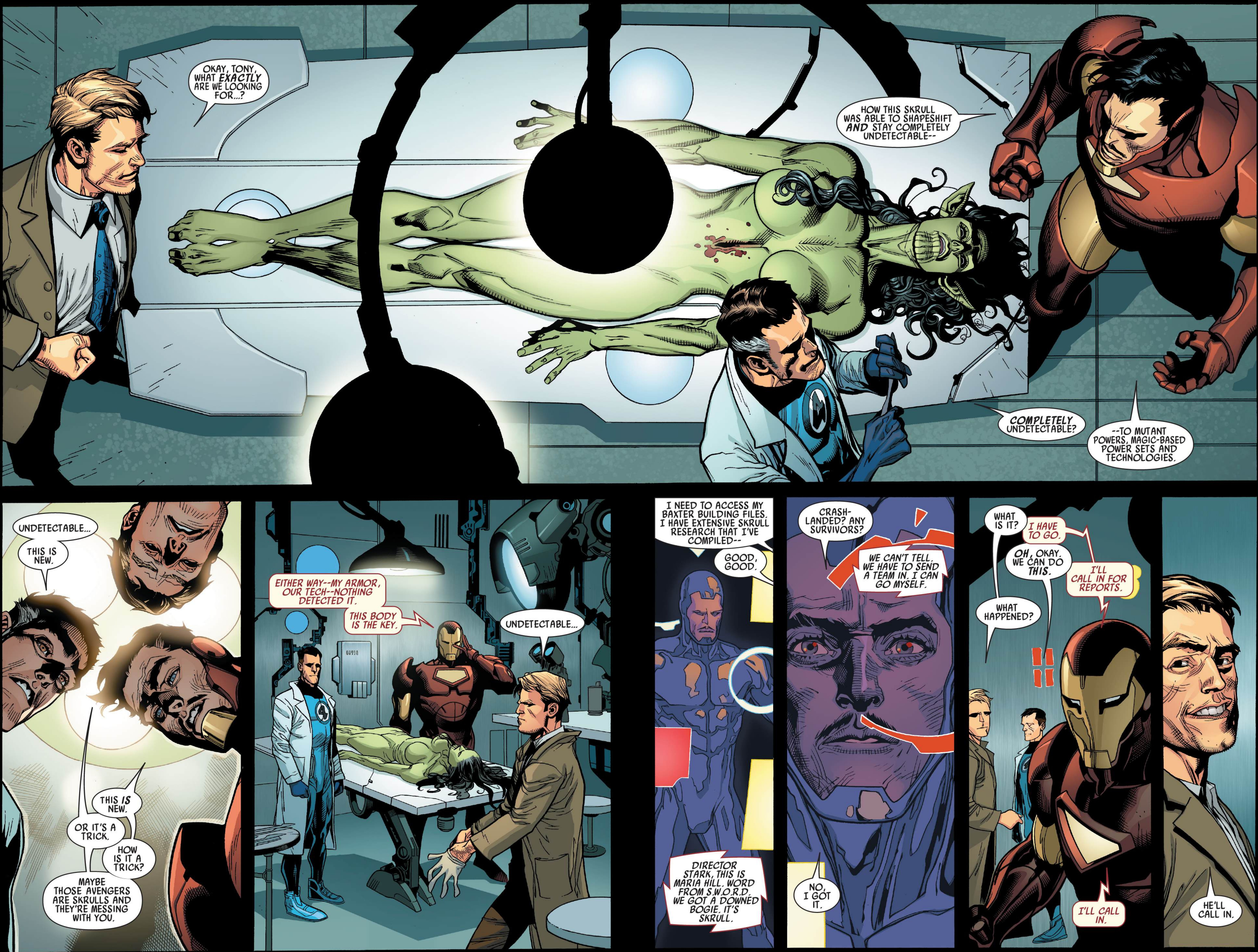
YEARS AGO...
THE SKRULL THRONEWORLD HAS BEEN DESTROYED AND THE ARMADA IS CLOSE TO RUINS.
THEN THE SCRIPTURE WAS RIGHT.
YES, YOUR EXCELLENCE.
AND NOW YOU'VE COME BACK TO ME.
YES, MY QUEEN.
THEN HERE'S WHAT SHALL BE DONE...

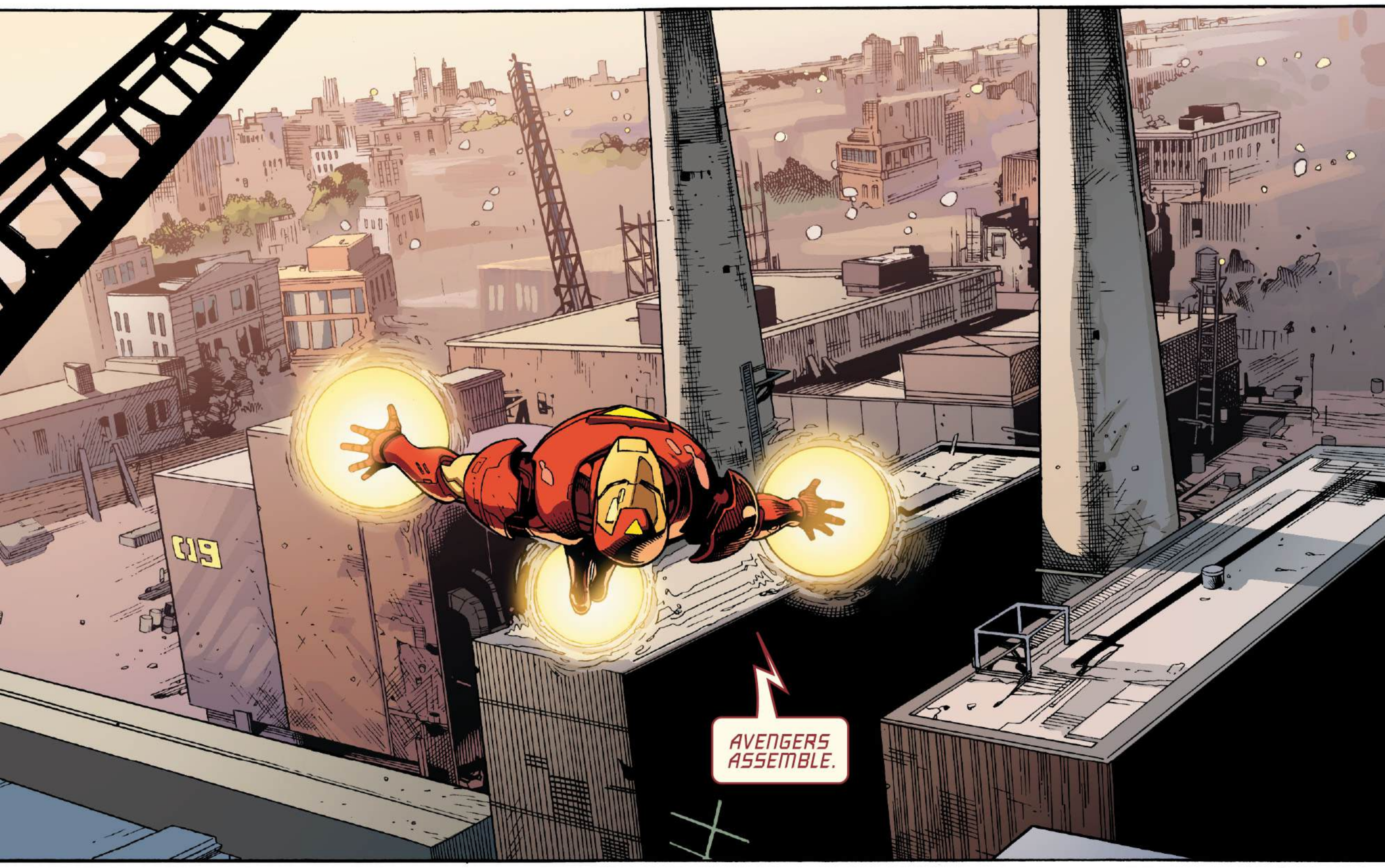
STARK LABORATORY.
LOCATION CONFIDENTIAL
IRON MAN, DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D., THE WORLD PEACEKEEPING FORCE, AVENGER
I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU A SECRET.
THE BIGGEST SECRET THERE IS IN THE WORLD.
I'M TELLING YOU BECAUSE-- BECAUSE I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.
NOW.
MARVEL COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS:
SECRET INVASION
THE SKRULL EMPIRE.
DOZENS OF WORLDS RULED OVER BY A RACE OF SHAPE-SHIFTING LIFE FORMS.
THEY'RE HERE NOW. LIVING AMONG US.
UNDETECTABLE.
HOW DO I KNOW?
BECAUSE THE AVENGERS WENT TO JAPAN AND THIS IS WHAT THEY FOUND.

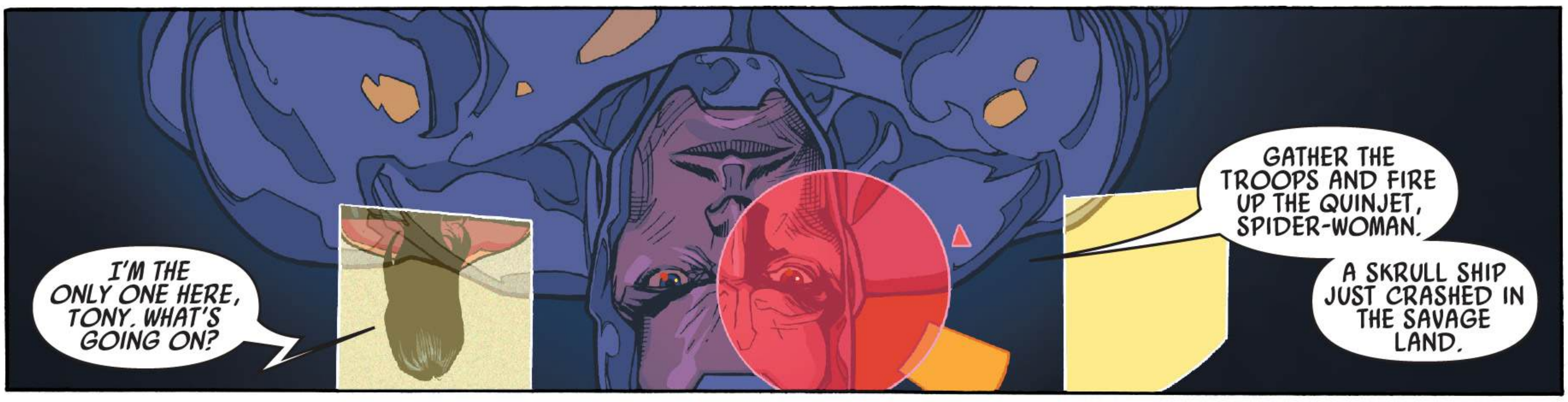
ELEKTRA?
ELEKTRA THE NINJA ASSASSIN WAS A SKRULL?
YES.
FOR *HOW LONG?*
AND WHY COULDN'T ANYONE TELL?
THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS.
AND SHE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE. THERE ARE OTHERS. I KNOW THIS TO BE FACT.
YOU TWO ARE THE SMARTEST PEOPLE ON THE PLANET.
I'M LOOKING RIGHT AT YOU AND I SEE--MY ARMOR SEES--DOCTOR REED RICHARDS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND DOCTOR HANK PYM OF THE AVENGERS AND THE FIFTY STATE INITIATIVE.
BUT I DON'T *KNOW* IF YOU ARE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE.
AND WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.
NOW.
BECAUSE THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.
I *KNOW* IT.

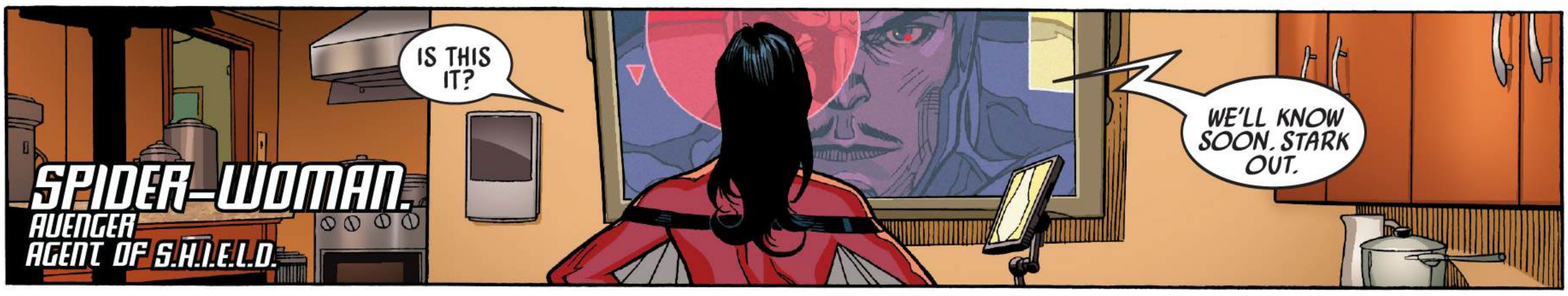
THE PEAK.
HEADQUARTERS OF S.W.O.R.D. ORBITING EARTH.
COMMANDER ON DECK!
COMMANDER DUGAN, IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU, SIR.
AT EASE, AGENT BRAND.
ALL Y'ALL... IT'S OKAY. AT EASE.
THIS IS JUST A GET-TOGETHER BETWEEN US WORLD SAVIN' AGENCIES. NOTHIN' TO GET OUT THE PARADE BALLOONS FOR.
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE THEM, COMMANDER. YOU ARE ONE OF THE ALL-TIME GREATEST AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D. EVER.
THEY'RE EXCITED TO MEET YOU.
WELL, THAT'S AWFUL NICE A' EVERYBODY.
THIS IS SOME SHINDIG YOU GUYS SLAPPED TOGETHER HERE.
AS YOU KNOW, YOU ARE STANDING IN THE HUB OF THE SENTIENT WORLD OBSERVATION AND RESPONSE DEPARTMENT.
AND AS THE PLANET'S COUNTER-TERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WHICH DEALS WITH EXTRATERRESTRIAL THREATS, WE HAVE THE--
RED ALERT. RED ALERT. RED ALERT
WHAT DO WE GOT?
WE GOT A BOGIE.
AND IT'S COMING IN FAST!

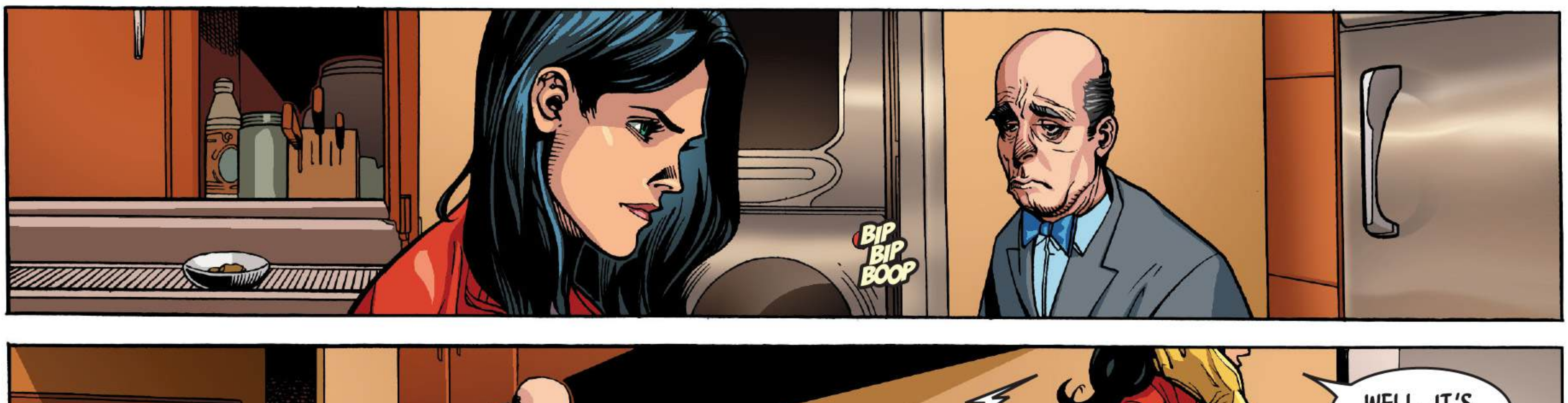
GIVE IT TO ME!
UNIDENTIFIED ALIEN CRAFT HITTING EARTH SPACE AT VECTOR SEVEN DASH THREE DASH NINE.
THAT'S A SKRULL SHIP!
IT'S A TRANSPORT.
A SKRULL SHIP. ONE SKRULL SHIP?
IT'LL BE IN EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE IN--NOW! IT JUST HIT EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.
AND IT'S FLYING.
WHERE'S IT HEADED?
HOLD ON!
OKAY, OKAY. IT'S DEFINITELY OF SKRULL ORIGIN AND IT'S GOING TO CRASH-LAND IN...HOLD ON.
COORDINATE ESTIMATION PUTS IT RIGHT SMACK DAB IN...
...THE SAVAGE LAND, MA'AM.
CRASH LANDING IN 2.2 MINUTES.
GET ME TONY STARK.
NOW!

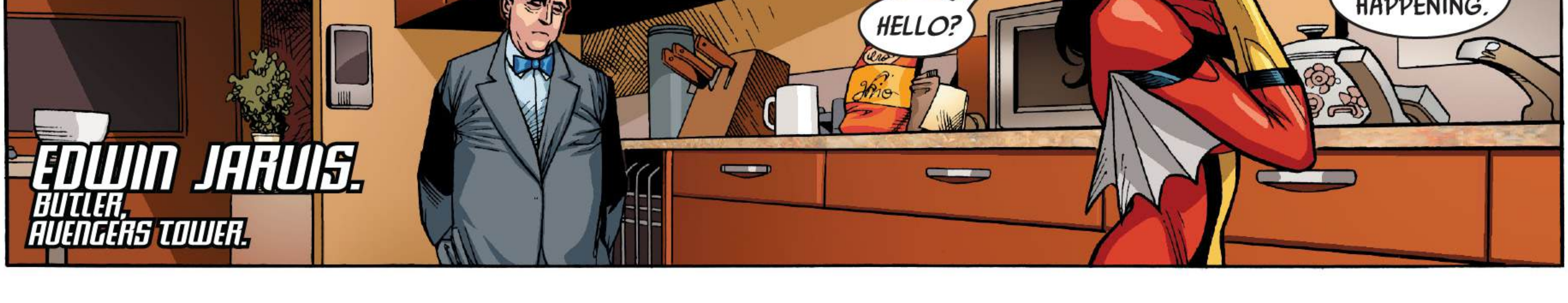

OKAY, TONY, WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE LOOKING FOR...?
HOW THIS SKRULL WAS ABLE TO SHAPESHIFT AND STAY COMPLETELY UNDETECTABLE--
COMPLETELY UNDETECTABLE?
--TO MUTANT POWERS, MAGIC-BASED POWER SETS AND TECHNOLOGIES.
UNDETECTABLE...
THIS IS NEW.
THIS IS NEW.
OR IT'S A TRICK.
HOW IS IT A TRICK?
MAYBE THOSE AVENGERS ARE SKRULLS AND THEY'RE MESSING WITH YOU.
EITHER WAY--MY ARMOR, OUR TECH--NOTHING DETECTED IT.
THIS BODY IS THE KEY.
UNDETECTABLE...
I NEED TO ACCESS MY BAXTER BUILDING FILES. I HAVE EXTENSIVE SKRULL RESEARCH THAT I'VE COMPILED--
GOOD, GOOD.
DIRECTOR STARK, THIS IS MARIA HILL. WORD FROM S.W.O.R.D. WE GOT A DOWNED BOGIE. IT'S SKRULL.
CRASH-LANDED? ANY SURVIVORS?
WE CAN'T TELL. WE HAVE TO SEND A TEAM IN. I CAN GO MYSELF.
NO, I GOT IT.
WHAT IS IT?
I HAVE TO GO.
OH, OKAY. WE CAN DO THIS.
I'LL CALL IN FOR REPORTS.
WHAT HAPPENED?
I'LL CALL IN.
HE'LL CALL IN.


C19
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE.


GATHER THE TROOPS AND FIRE UP THE QUINJET, SPIDER-WOMAN.
A SKRULL SHIP JUST CRASHED IN THE SAVAGE LAND.
I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE, TONY. WHAT'S GOING ON?


SPIDER-WOMAN.
AVENGER
AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
IS THIS IT?
WE'LL KNOW SOON. STARK OUT.


BIP BIP BOOP


EDWIN JARVIS.
BUTLER,
AVENGERS TOWER.
HELLO?
WELL, IT'S HAPPENING.

SECRET AVENGERS HIDEOUT.
WHAT IS?
SKRULL SHIP CRASHED IN THE SAVAGE LAND. TONY'S GATHERING THE TROOPS.
BUT IT'S GOING TO TAKE A BIT. EVERYONE'S SCATTERED.
AND YOU WANT A BUNCH OF RENEGADE HEROES RUNNING FROM THE LAW TO DO WHAT ABOUT IT?
AT THIS POINT I TRUST YOU MORE THAN STARK. YOU MIGHT GET A HEAD START.
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE A HEAD START?
LUKE CAGE
TK!
WOLVERINE
ECHO
IRON FIST
RONIN
WHAT WAS THAT?
SPIDER-MAN
BIP BIP BOOP
HEY, MAN, I NEED A SOLID. ASAP.
A QUICK DROP. YEAH? YOU DA MAN.
YOU GUYS READY TO PISS OFF EVERYONE?
BOY, AM I!

AVENGERS TOWER. ROOFTOP.
HELICARRIER, THIS IS AGENT ROMANOVA. OVER.
TELL TONY THE QUINJET'S GASSED AND READY. JUST WAITING FOR SIMON, CAROL AND BOB.
WHERE DID YOU--
YOU PEOPLE ARE OUT OF YOUR @#$%--
BLACK WIDOW, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D., AVENGER.
THWAP
BONK
FAR AS I GO, GUYS.
YOU SURE, CLOAK? WE COULD USE THE--
YOU NEED SOME OF MY TELEPORTING CLOAK? NO PROBLEM.
STEALING TONY STARK'S CAR? YOU GUYS HAVE FUN.
MAN, NATASHA'S GOING TO KILL ME WHEN SHE WAKES UP. WE USED TO GO OUT.
WHO HAVEN'T YOU GONE OUT WITH?

THREE AND A HALF MINUTES LATER...
WHERE THE #$%^ IS MY QUINJET?!
UH, JUST F.Y.I....
TONY STARK CAN TAKE CONTROL OF THIS QUINJET FROM HIS ARMOR.
NOT ANYMORE.
I JUST GUTTED THE MOTHERBOARD.
NICE.
HE CAN STILL FOLLOW US.
HE CAN?
HE CONTROLS THE WORLD'S SATELLITES.
FINE BY ME.

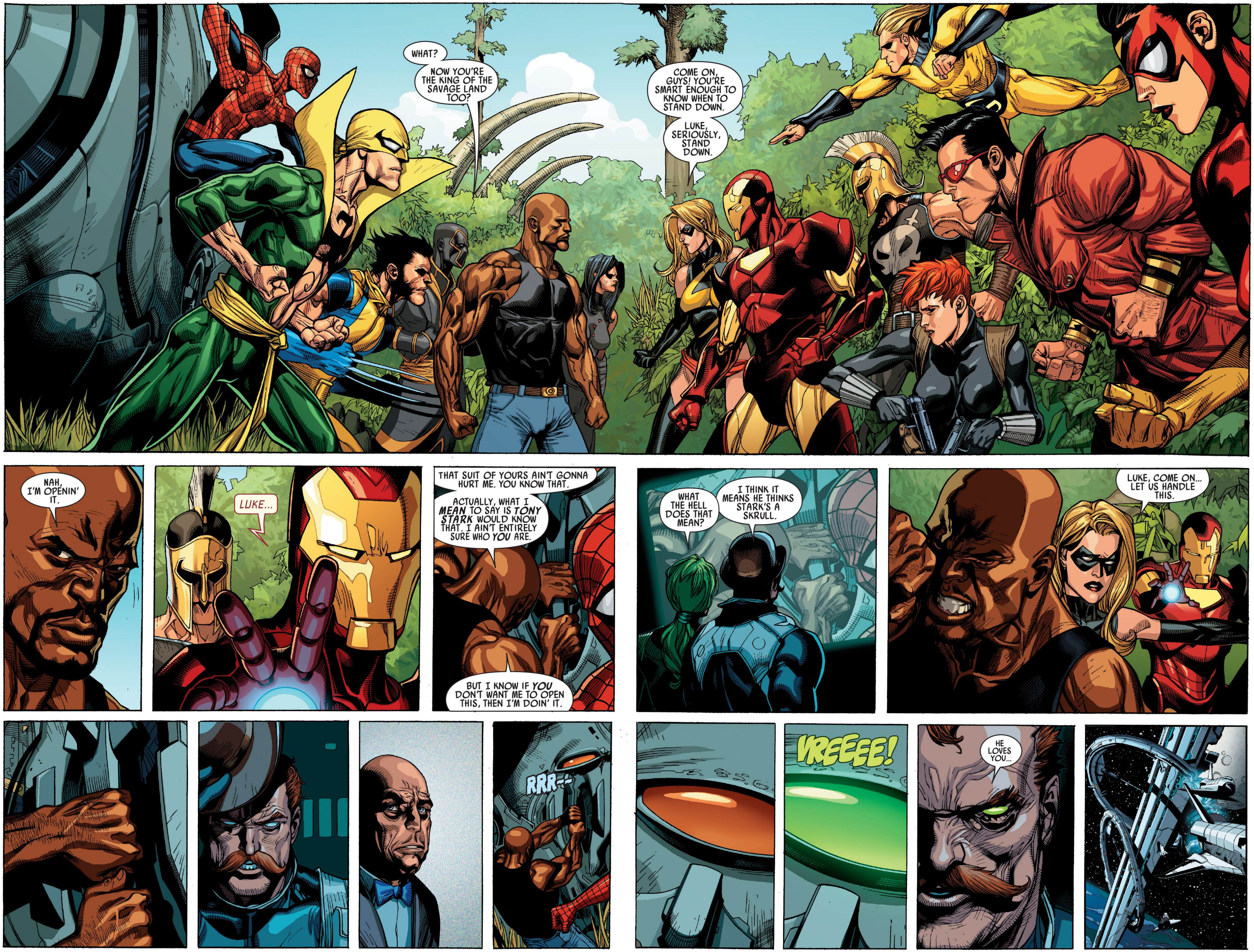
THE MIGHTY AVENGERS
WONDER MAN
THE SENTRY
MS. MARVEL
SAVAGE LAND.
THIS'LL BE FUN, HE SAYS SARCASTICALLY.
I THOUGHT IT WAS A MADE-UP PLACE.
OH, IT'S REAL...
A HIDDEN LAND THAT TIME FORGOT SNUGGLED AWAY IN THE DEEP DEPTHS OF THE ANTARCTIC.
HEY, SO WE KNOW THIS ISN'T A TONY STARK TRAP HOW EXACTLY?
THEY HAD PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO BUST US WITHOUT ALL THIS.
EXACTLY.
AND HOW DO WE KNOW IT ISN'T A SKRULL TRAP?
I HOPE IT'S A SKRULL TRAP.
I'M SO SICK OF HIDING. I'M SICK OF NOT TRUSTING EACH OTHER.
I MISS MY WIFE AND KID. I WANT TO PUT THIS RIGHT. I WANT THINGS TO GO BACK TO NORMAL.
WHEN WERE THINGS NORMAL?
RELATIVELY.
DO WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR WHEN WE GET THERE?
DON'T YOU WORRY.
I CAN TRACK ANYTHING ANYWHERE ANYTIME.

CARRUUNNCH!
HOLD--

FROOOM
CRUUNNCHH
YOU COULDN'T TRACK *THAT?*
BOOM
WOW.
I WAS THINKING MORE LIKE... OW!
QUIET.
THIS WAY.
SNIFF

KA-ZAR LIVES AROUND HERE. WE SHOULD FIND HIM.
LOOK...
WHAT IS THIS?
THIS IS WHERE THE NEW AVENGERS HAD OUR FIRST BATTLE.
AND THIS IS HOW YOU LEFT IT?
NO.
WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?
LET'S GO. THIS AIN'T WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR...
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR.

YOU GETTIN' ANYTHING, LOGAN?
NAH, IT'S SEALED SHUT.
SO WE OPEN IT.
WELL, THAT DEPENDS.
ON...?
WHAT DO WE THINK WE'RE GOING TO *SEE* WHEN WE OPEN IT?
MAYBE THE ENTIRE SKRULL ARMY'S GOING TO POUR OUT.
OR ESCAPED HOSTAGES.
OR A COUPLE OF PRISONERS OF WAR. WITH ANSWERS.
OPEN IT.
WHATEVER WE DO, DO IT NOW...
...CUZ WE AIN'T ALONE ANYMORE...
STEP AWAY FROM THE SHIP!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!


WHAT?
NOW YOU'RE THE KING OF THE SAVAGE LAND TOO?
COME ON, GUYS! YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN TO STAND DOWN.
LUKE, SERIOUSLY, STAND DOWN.
NAH, I'M OPENIN' IT.
LUKE...
THAT SUIT OF YOURS AIN'T GONNA HURT ME. YOU KNOW THAT.
ACTUALLY, WHAT I MEAN TO SAY IS TONY STARK WOULD KNOW THAT. I AIN'T ENTIRELY SURE WHO YOU ARE.
BUT I KNOW IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO OPEN THIS, THEN I'M DOIN' IT.
WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?
I THINK IT MEANS HE THINKS STARK'S A SKRULL.
LUKE, COME ON... LET US HANDLE THIS.
RRR--
VREEEE!
HE LOVES YOU...

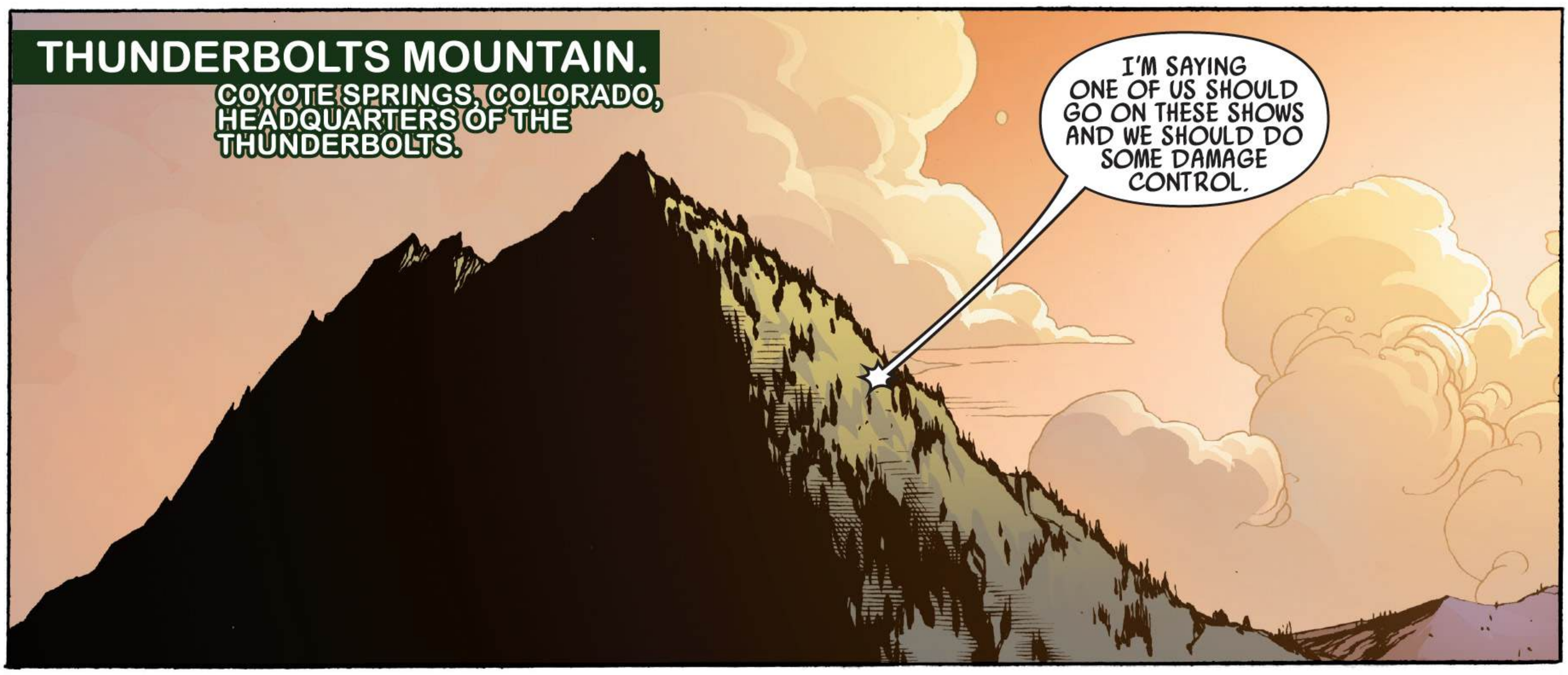
LUKE, COME ON...LET US HANDLE THIS.
LET US SKKTCH--!
ALIEN VIRUS DETECTED
HE LOVES YOU...
LUKE, YOU ARE UNDER-- AGH!

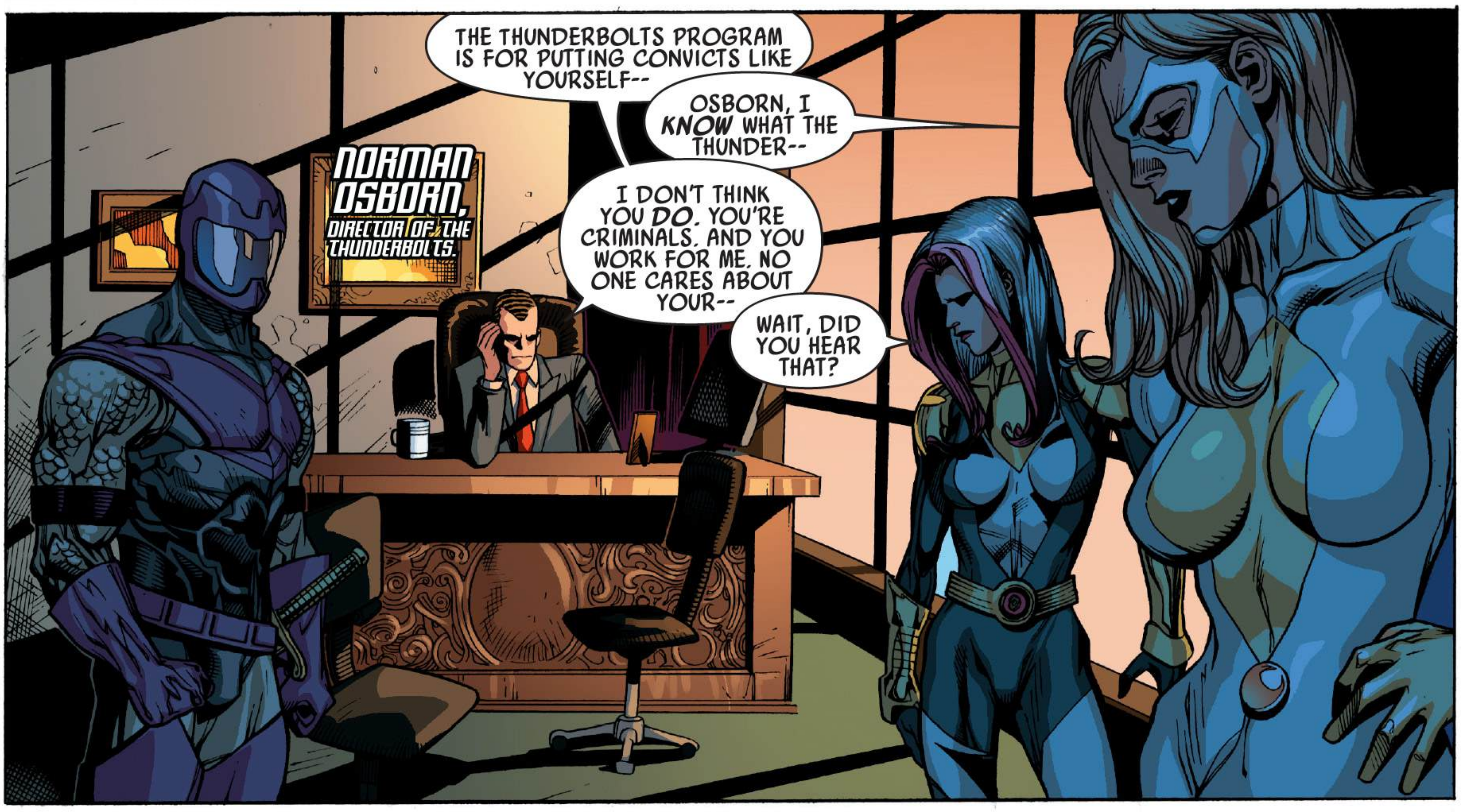
OH MY GOD! TONY?!
UH...
GET BACK! EVERYONE JUST--
CLANK
HHUAAGGH!
HELICARRIER ONE, THIS IS MS. MARVEL. WE'RE IN THE SAVAGE LAND. WE NEED IMMEDIATE EVAC FOR TONY STARK.
I CAN FLY HIM OUT OF HERE.
NO! DON'T TOUCH HIM!
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIS-- HELICARRIER-- DO YOU READ?
COMMANDER HILL, WE HAVE FULL SYSTEMS MALFUNCTION!
THIS IS MARIA HILL! ALL HANDS!
ABANDON SHIP!

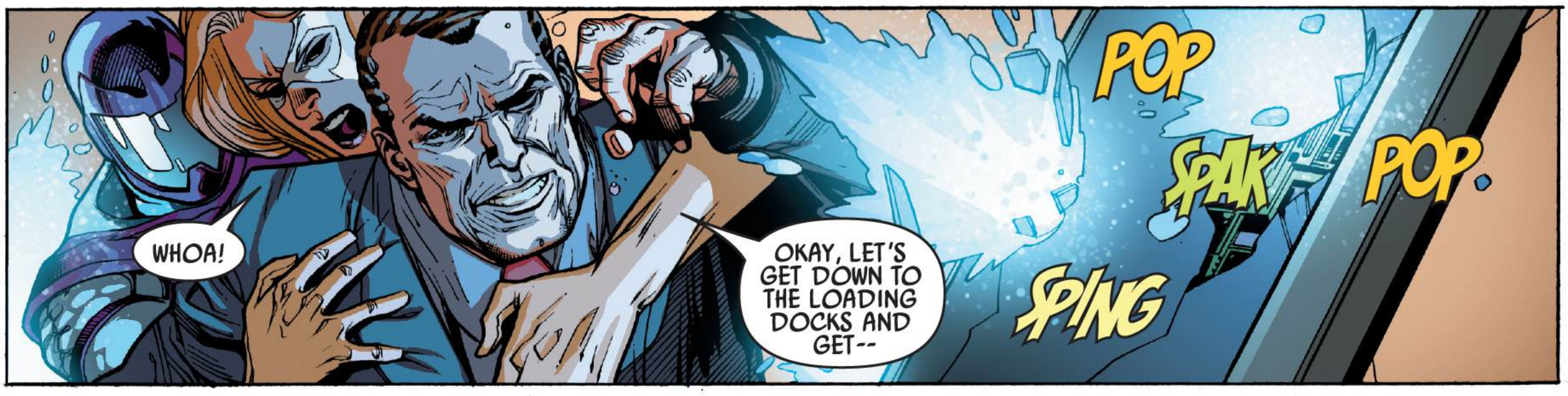
STARK ENTERPRISES MAIN PLANT.
FLUSHING, QUEENS.
STARK
34
ALIEN VIRUS DETECTED
STARK ENTERPRISES.
WESTCHESTER FACILITY.
ALIEN VIRUS DETECTED
STARK
STARK
ALIEN VIRUS DETECTE
STARK ENTERPRISES.
LAUNCH FACILITY.
LONG ISLAND, N.Y.
IEN VIRUS DETE

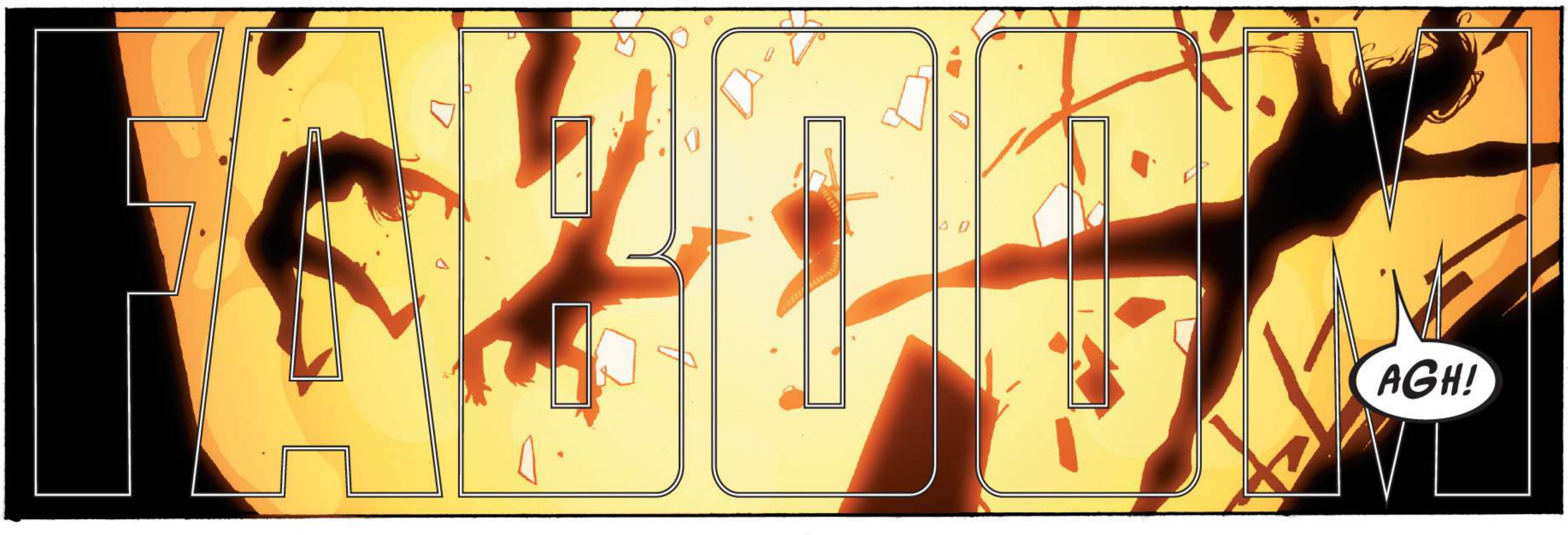
THE RAFT.
RYKER'S MAXIMUM-MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTALLATION.
SHOCKWAVE.
CHECK.
VICTOR VON DOOM.
REALLY? WOW. CHECK.
THE ARMADILLO.
SERIOUSLY?
THE ARMADILLO.
CHECK.
MANDRILL.
CHECK.
MOLECULE M--
DETECTED ALIEN VIRUS DETECTED ALIEN VIRUS DETECTED ALIEN VIRUS DETECTED
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
COMMAND DECK! THIS IS SUB-BASEMENT THREE!
WE HAVE A REAL SITUATION HERE!

THE CUBE.
MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY.
ALIEN VIRUS DETECTE
NOH-VARR, MARVEL BOY.
CONVICTED ALIEN TERRORIST. CURRENT MASTER OF THE CUBE.
WHAT'S THIS NOW?
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MY WHOLE LIFE!
OUT OF MY WAY!
STOP WHAT YOU--!
KILL 'EM! KILL 'EM ALL!
I JUST WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
SCREW THIS! HIT THE GATES AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
AAARRGGHH!
OH NO! STAY! WE'RE ALL GOING TO GET KILLED!
TIME TO GO.


THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN.
COYOTE SPRINGS, COLORADO, HEADQUARTERS OF THE THUNDERBOLTS.
I'M SAYING ONE OF US SHOULD GO ON THESE SHOWS AND WE SHOULD DO SOME DAMAGE CONTROL.


THE THUNDERBOLTS PROGRAM IS FOR PUTTING CONVICTS LIKE YOURSELF--
OSBORN, I KNOW WHAT THE THUNDER--
NORMAN OSBORN, DIRECTOR OF THE THUNDERBOLTS.
I DON'T THINK YOU DO. YOU'RE CRIMINALS. AND YOU WORK FOR ME. NO ONE CARES ABOUT YOUR--
WAIT, DID YOU HEAR THAT?


POP
SPAK
POP.
WHOA!
OKAY, LET'S GET DOWN TO THE LOADING DOCKS AND GET--
SPING


FABOOM
AGH!

MANHATTAN.
WELCOME TO THE BAXTER BUILDING, THE HOME OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR-- THE FIRST FAMILY OF THE FANTASTIC.
NOT ONLY IS THIS THEIR HOME, BUT IT'S ALSO THE LOCATION OF THE AMAZING LABORATORIES OF PROFESSOR REED RICHARDS WHO WON THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR DISCOVERING THE EXISTENCE OF WHAT WE REFER TO AS *"THE NEGATIVE ZONE."*
WELCOME
COLBERT '08
A PARALLEL DIMENSION WHOSE PROPERTIES AND SCIENCES ARE A SKEWED AND UNEXPLAINABLE VERSION OF OUR OWN.
I.D. CONFIRMED.
WELCOME HOME, SUSAN.

HI, MOM.
HEY, SIS, I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN VANCOUVER.
SUE?
MOM?
MOM NEEDS A TIME-OUT?
GUESS SO.
I.D. CONFIRMED.
WELCOME, SUSAN RICHARDS.
NEGATIVE ZONE VIEWER. QUADRANT 45-55
NEGATIVE ZONE PORTAL. WARNING. USE CAUTION.

NEGATIVE ZONE BREACH.
DANGER. DANGER.
HE LOVES YOU...
UNCLE JOHNNY!
SUSAN!

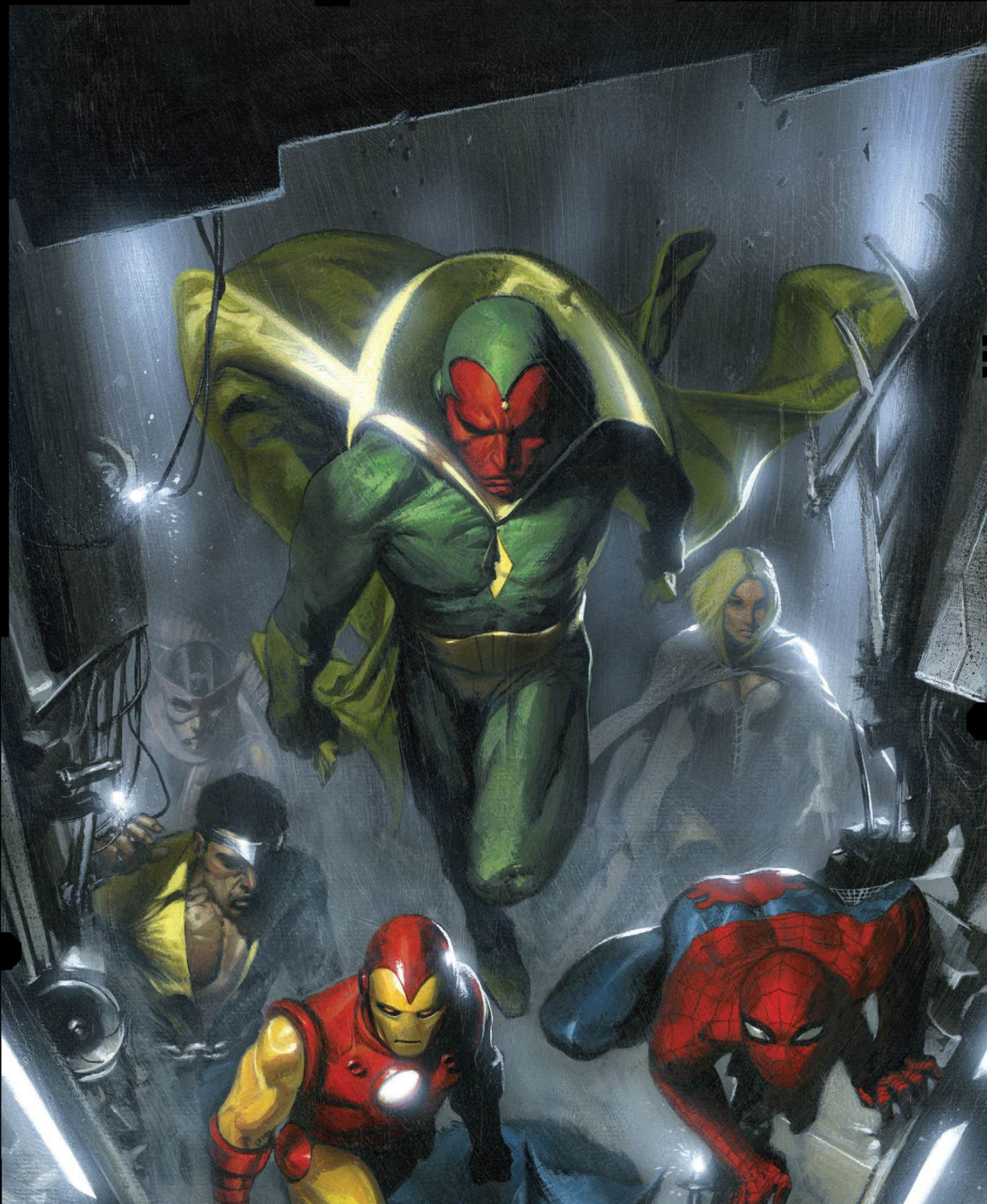
THE SAVAGE LAND.
AAAGGHH!
HE'S HAVING A SEIZURE.
I'M TAKING HIM.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
IT'S @#$%. IT'S--
I DON'T THINK IT IS. I THINK HE'S BEEN INFECTED WITH SOMETHING--
IT'S NOT A TRICK, LUKE. TONY, CAN YOU *HEAR* ME?
GET THIS ARMOR OFF OF HIM. ARES, GRAB THE BOOTS.
WHAT COULD DO THIS TO HIM?
A VIRUS, MAYBE, BUT I DON'T KNOW ANY KIND THAT HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO INSTANTLY DEFLECT--

OH, MY STARS AND GARTERS!
I WAS GONNA SAY SWEET CHRISTMAS!
IS THIS IT?
DID WE MAKE IT BACK TO EARTH?
YEAH, I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY THAT... CUZ...
...I KNOW WHO I AM...
...BUT WHO ARE *YOU* GUYS SUPPOSED TO BE EXACTLY?

HELICARRIER, PLEASE COME IN!
THIS IS AGENT BRAND. PLEASE, THE PEAK STATION IS GONE! WE HAVE MASSIVE CASUALTIES!
AND--AND MY PEOPLE ARE STUCK OUT HERE.
CAN YOU HEAR ME? WE'VE ONLY GOT TEN MORE MINUTES OF AIR...
CAN ANYONE...

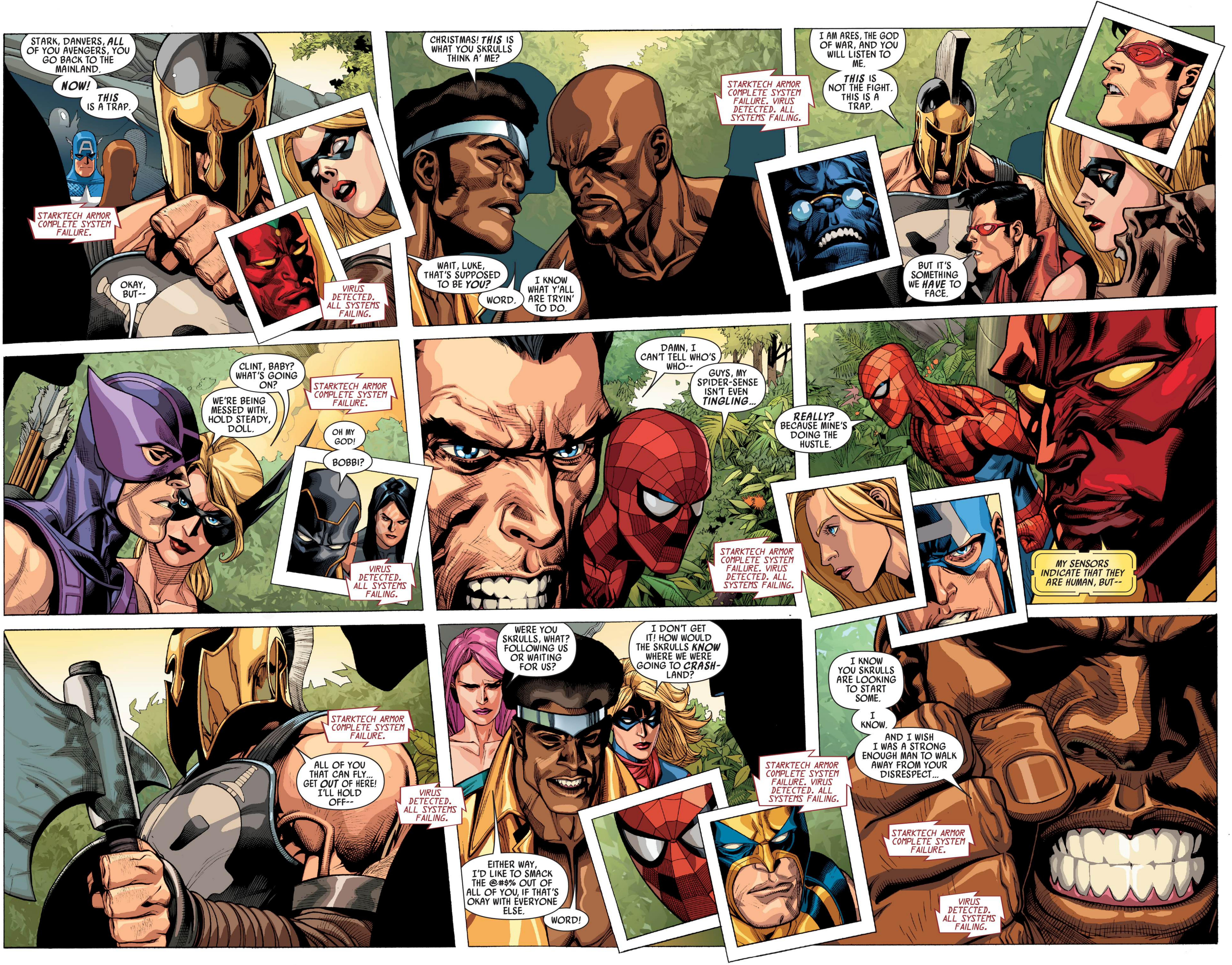
STARK LABORATORY.
LOCATION CONFIDENTIAL.
I--I THINK I GOT IT. I KNOW HOW THEY MADE THEMSELVES UNDETECTABLE.
YOU KNOW WHAT THE SKRULLS DID? THEY TOOK--
I DO ACTUALLY.

FSHAMMM
HE EVEN LOVES YOU.



SECRET INVASION #2

THE SAVAGE LAND.
CAP, WHAT IS THIS?
I DON'T KNOW, SHELLHEAD!
LOOKS LIKE THOSE DAMN SKRULLS ARE PULLING ANOTHER TRICK OUT OF THEIR SLEEVES.
BUT WE'RE ON EARTH, RIGHT?
I'M PICKING UP SOME BRAINWAVES HERE, GUYS. THEY THINK WE'RE THE SKRULLS.
AFTER WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY WANT US TO THINK THEY THINK.
YOU SKRULLS HAVE ABOUT TWO SECONDS TO TELL US--
OH, WILL YOU CUT THE BULL!
AVENGERS, LISTEN TO ME NOW...
NNNNN...
STARKTECH ARMOR COMPLETE SYSTEM FAILURE. VIRUS DETECTED. ALL SYSTEMS FAILING.


STARK, DANVERS, ALL OF YOU AVENGERS, YOU GO BACK TO THE MAINLAND.
NOW!
THIS IS A TRAP.
STARKTECH ARMOR COMPLETE SYSTEM FAILURE.
OKAY, BUT--
VIRUS DETECTED. ALL SYSTEMS FAILING.
CHRISTMAS! THIS IS WHAT YOU SKRULLS THINK A' ME?
WAIT, LUKE, THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE YOU?
WORD.
I KNOW WHAT Y'ALL ARE TRYIN' TO DO.
STARKTECH ARMOR COMPLETE SYSTEM FAILURE. VIRUS DETECTED. ALL SYSTEMS FAILING.
I AM ARES, THE GOD OF WAR, AND YOU WILL LISTEN TO ME.
THIS IS NOT THE FIGHT. THIS IS A TRAP.
BUT IT'S SOMETHING WE HAVE TO FACE.
CLINT, BABY? WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE'RE BEING MESSED WITH. HOLD STEADY, DOLL.
STARKTECH ARMOR COMPLETE SYSTEM FAILURE.
OH MY GOD!
BOBBI?
VIRUS DETECTED. ALL SYSTEMS FAILING.
DAMN, I CAN'T TELL WHO'S WHO--
GUYS, MY SPIDER-SENSE ISN'T EVEN TINGLING...
STARKTECH ARMOR COMPLETE SYSTEM FAILURE. VIRUS DETECTED. ALL SYSTEMS FAILING.
REALLY? BECAUSE MINE'S DOING THE HUSTLE.
MY SENSORS INDICATE THAT THEY ARE HUMAN, BUT--
STARKTECH ARMOR COMPLETE SYSTEM FAILURE.
ALL OF YOU THAT CAN FLY... GET OUT OF HERE! I'LL HOLD OFF--
VIRUS DETECTED. ALL SYSTEMS FAILING.
WERE YOU SKRULLS, WHAT? FOLLOWING US OR WAITING FOR US?
I DON'T GET IT! HOW WOULD THE SKRULLS KNOW WHERE WE WERE GOING TO CRASH-LAND?
STARKTECH ARMOR COMPLETE SYSTEM FAILURE. VIRUS DETECTED. ALL SYSTEMS FAILING.
EITHER WAY, I'D LIKE TO SMACK THE @#$% OUT OF ALL OF YOU, IF THAT'S OKAY WITH EVERYONE ELSE.
WORD!
I KNOW YOU SKRULLS ARE LOOKING TO START SOME.
I KNOW.
AND I WISH I WAS A STRONG ENOUGH MAN TO WALK AWAY FROM YOUR DISRESPECT...
STARKTECH ARMOR COMPLETE SYSTEM FAILURE.
VIRUS DETECTED. ALL SYSTEMS FAILING.

BUT YOU ALL REALLY NEED YOUR ASSES KICKED!

AGH!
VIRUS DETECTED. ALL SYSTEMS FAILING.
TONY, I KNOW YOU'RE HURTING BUT YOU'VE GOT TO GET IT TOGETHER, MAN. WE NEED YOU.
JUST GO! GO!
RRRRA! HAVE AT THEE!
ARGH!
WELL, I DO HATE MYSELF, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I FEEL LIKE SMACKING MYSELF AROUND.
UGH! PLEASE TELL ME I'M NOT THIS ANNOYING.
YOU ARE.
(I KNOW.)
NATASHA, HOW--
CRACK
SHUT IT!
FIIIIZZZ

JUST--HEY, MAN--SETTLE DOWN AND TALK TO ME. ARE YOU THE VISION?
MY NAME IS BOB REYNOLDS. I'M THE SENTRY. I'M AN AVENGER NOW. IF YOU'RE REALLY THE VISION, I CAN--
THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED, BOB.
WHAT?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
YOU DID THIS, BOB. THIS IS ALL YOU.
I AM THE VOID AND I BROUGHT THIS TO YOU, BECAUSE I AM YOU.
NOOO!
YOU BIRTHED THIS INTO EXISTENCE. I'M HERE BECAUSE YOU WANTED IT.
EVERYTHING IS COMING TOGETHER JUST LIKE YOU PLANNED.
YOU'RE DESTROYING THEM ALL FOR FORGETTING YOU WHEN YOU NEEDED THEM THE MOST.
NNNNO...
NOOO!

SNIKT
LET'S JUST GET--LET'S FIND THE REST OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND THE OTHERS!
LET'S FIND MY HUSBAND. HE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT.
ALL I KNOW IS, IF THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIGURE OUT WHO'S A SKRULL...
...THEN I'M MORE THAN HAPPY TO DO IT!
THIS BATTLE IS FOR NAUGHT! WE ARE NEEDED ELSEWHERE.
LET'S CALL A TIME-OUT, THEN.
CLOCK
AGH!
LIKE I HAVEN'T BEEN THROUGH ENOUGH THIS YEAR.
BOOM
HUT!
ALL KINDS OF CRAZY.

AGH!
FIIIZZZZCHUNCK
CHUNCK
AIIEE!
CAP'S DEAD, YOU SKRULL MOTHER!
FIIIZZZZCHUNCK
DAMN, MAYBE THAT IS--

HUUAAARRRGGAARR!
FOOM
HUUAARRGGARR!
SQUITCH!
HUUAARRGGARR!

THERE.
WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S THE--AGH--IT'S THE MUTATE CITADEL. IT BELONGS TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THE SAVAGE LAND.
THERE WAS A LABORATORY IN THERE ONCE UPON A TIME.
HOPEFULLY--AGH--HOPEFULLY IT'S STILL THERE.
OH MY GOD...WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
CAROL, LISTEN TO ME...
YOU-YOU FLY BACK TO THE MAINLAND... NOW!
I'VE BEEN INFECTED WITH--WITH WHAT I MUST ASSUME IS AN ALIEN VIRUS.
ALL MY TECH IS DAMAGED. S.H.I.E.L.D., AVENGERS TOWER...
I HAVE TO REBUILD FROM SCRATCH.
BUT THE OTHERS, OUR TEAM...
CAROL, THE ENTIRE WORLD IS IN DANGER!
YOU GO BACK TO THE MAINLAND! YOU FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED.
GATHER THE INITIATIVE. GATHER EVERYONE WHO'S LEFT...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
I BUILT MY FIRST ARMOR FROM A LOT LESS THAN THIS.
I'M GOING TO DO THE ONE THING SKRULLS CAN'T IMITATE.
USE MY BRAIN.
GO!

SNIFF...
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU LOOK LIKE...YA COME NEAR ME, I'LL GUT YA.
EXCEPT YOU CAN'T. UNBREAKABLE SKIN.
UNBREAKABLE CLAWS.
AND LOOK AT THAT...

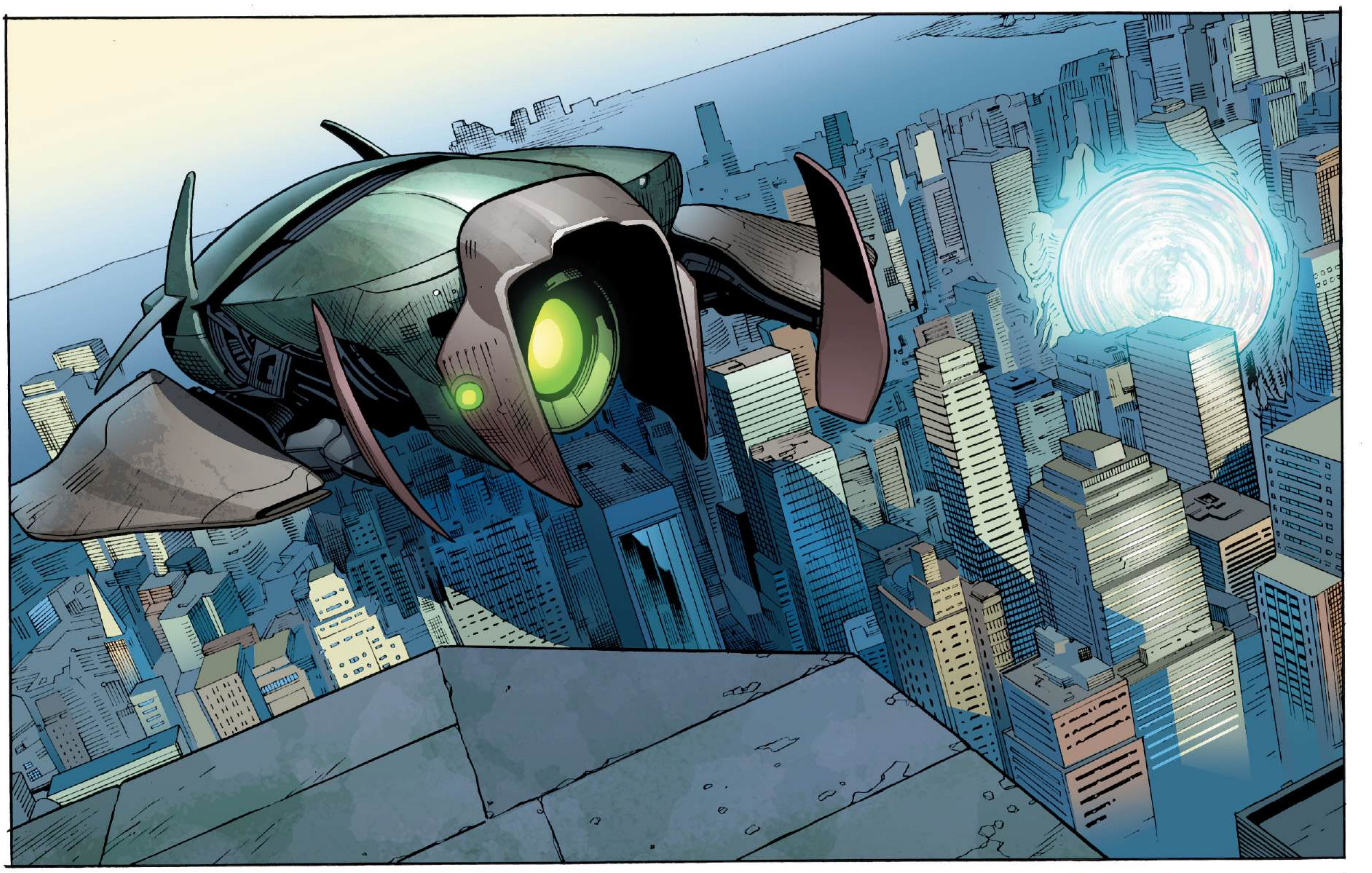
GOOD, THAT MEANS THEY'RE ALL SKRULLS AND THEY WERE JUST--
DON'T MEAN NOTHIN'. NOTHIN' AT ALL.
EVERYONE SCATTERED.
DINOSAURS WILL *DO* THAT.
I JUST CAN'T SEE THE ANGLE. WHAT'S THE SKRULL *PLAN?*
THEY GOT US ALL STUCK DOWN HERE, FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES, FIGHTING EACH OTHER.
FIGHTING A WAR WHEN WE CAN'T TRUST THE SOLDIER NEXT TO US.
WHY DON'T THEY JUST NUKE US OR-- OR SPACE-RAY US-- THEY HATE US SO MUCH?
I THINK THEY NEED THE PLANET *INTACT*. WITH US *NOT* ON IT. ESPECIALLY US.
THEY REALLY GOTTA *HATE* US AT THIS POINT. THEY WANT TO *TORTURE* US. THEY WANT US TO KILL *EACH OTHER.*
AND WE-- WE FELL FOR IT.
I DIDN'T SEE THE *SCOPE* OF IT. I DIDN'T SEE THEM TAKING STARK OUT.
IF THAT WAS EVEN HIM.
THESE SKRULLS, THE REASON YOU CAN'T FATHOM IT ALL...
...IS BECAUSE THE ONES *HERE*. THEY'RE HERE ON A SUICIDE MISSION.
THEY'RE HERE TO...
RUSTLE
SON OF A--
SNIKT

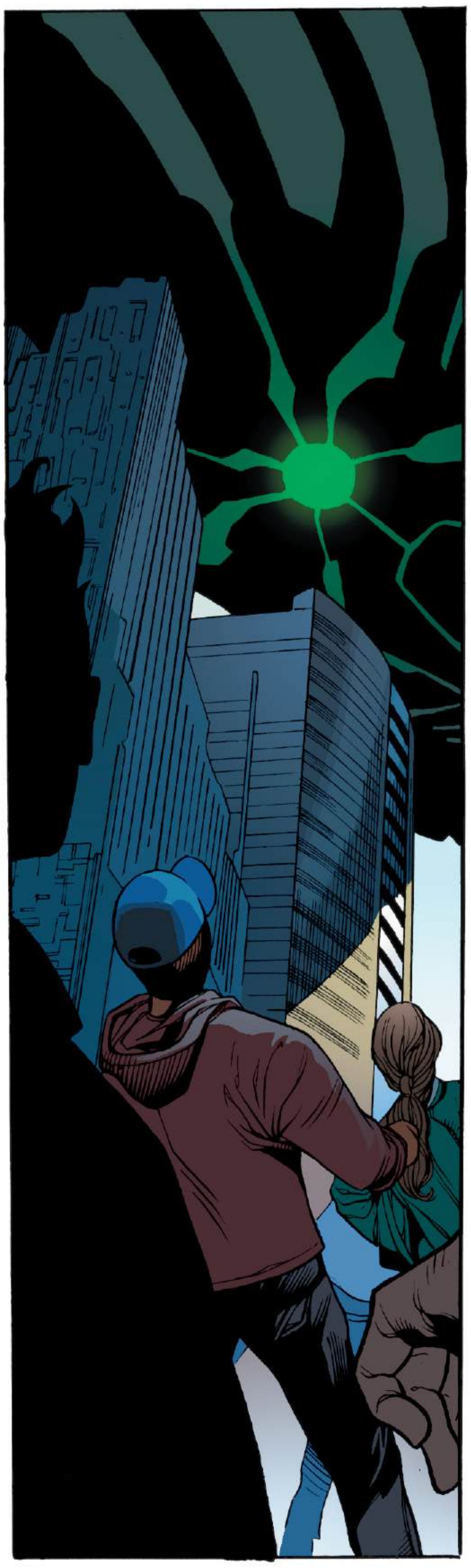
I KNEW WE HAD A SKRULL OR TWO IN OUR GROUP BEFORE WE CRASHED.
I JUST-- I...
MAN, THIS PISSES ME OFF.
STOP THE SKIT, SKRULL.
I'M NOT A SKRULL.
MY NAME IS BOBBI MORSE, CODENAMED MOCKINGBIRD. I'M AN AVENGER **AND** AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
I'VE BEEN STUCK UP THERE FOR, I DON'T KNOW, AT **LEAST** A YEAR AND I--
STOP IT!
TOO BAD WE'RE ALL OUT OF--
AGH!
ARRGGH!
CHUNCK
BACK AWAY FROM THE GIRL!

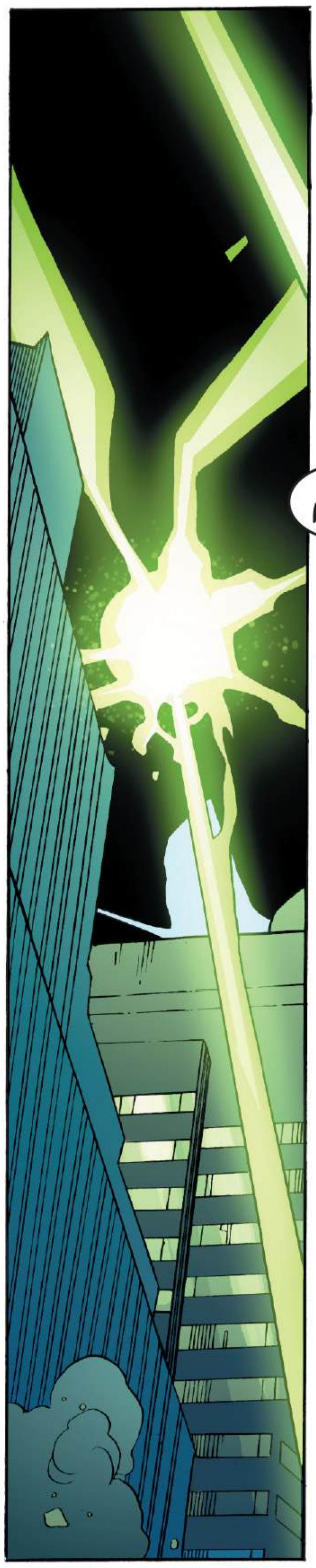
DON'T FALL FOR IT!
DAMN IT!
I'M NOT A--
RRUSSLLE
THOSE AREN'T YOUR TOYS TO PLAY WITH, PAL.
TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT OCTOBER 12TH.
... CLINT?
I KNOW WHO I AM.
OCTOBER 12TH!
BEFORE ALL OF THIS, WHEN WE WERE AVENGERS, A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO...
I-I HAD A MISCARRIAGE. WE DIDN'T TELL ANYONE.
ME AND MY HUSBAND. WE FIGURED HIS OR HER BIRTHDAY WOULD HAVE BEEN OCTOBER 12TH.
WE REALLY WANTED THAT KID. AND OCTOBER 12TH...
...THAT...WOULD HAVE BEEN A NICE DAY.
OCTOBER 12TH.
I SHOULD'A TESTED THE SKRULL HAWKEYE WITH THAT ONE.
YOU DIED.
NO. I DIDN'T.

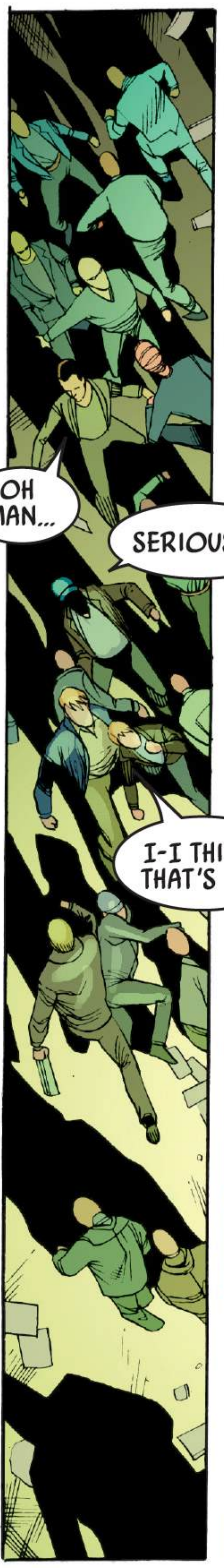
I THOUGHT--
I THOUGHT--
IT'S OKAY.
BARTON...
I KNOW. BUT THIS IS *MY* CALL.
BUT--
I KNOW WHAT I KNOW.
THERE'S NO *WAY* THEY WOULD KNOW WHAT SHE JUST SAID. *NOBODY* KNOWS THAT.
IF *YOU* ARE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE.
WELL, YEAH. OKAY.
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS YOU WERE IN THAT SHIP WITH?
AT THIS POINT--I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE *THAT'S* REALLY JESSICA JONES. MAYBE NOT.
MAYBE THAT'S REALLY CAP.
OH, WELL, YEAH... *THAT'S* CAPTAIN AMERICA FOR SURE.
HE'S THE ONE THAT GOT US BACK TO EARTH.

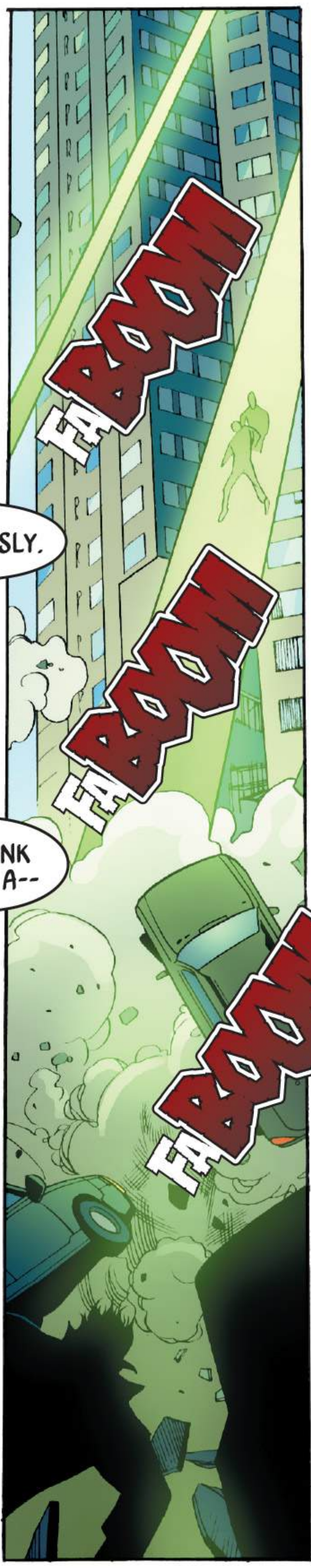
MANHATTAN.
OSCORP
THEAT
HOLY--! ARE YOU *SEEING* THIS?
GUYS, WE GOTTA GO DO SOMETHING.
WE'RE THE YOUNG AVENGERS, WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT THE BAXTER BUILDING EATING ITSELF?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING.
OH MAN...
WE SHOULD FIND THE AVENGERS AND OFFER TO HELP.

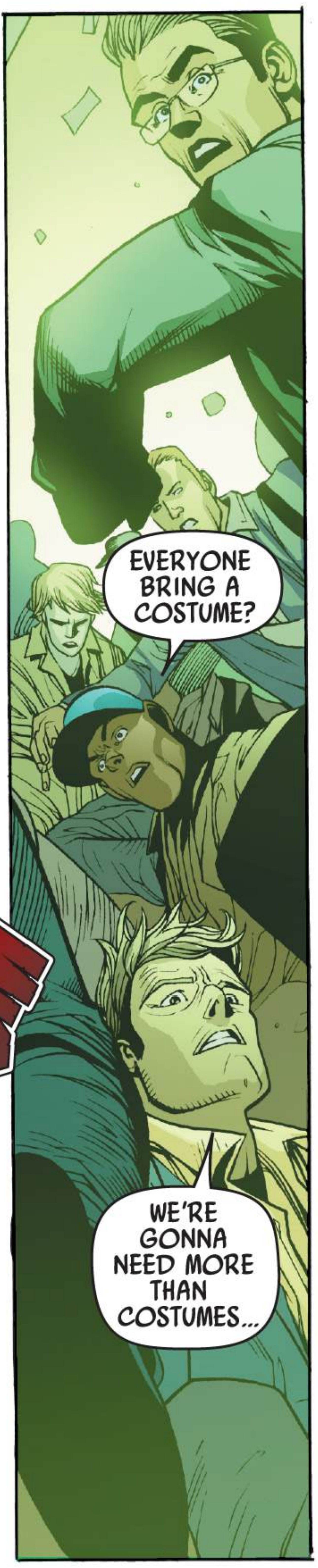




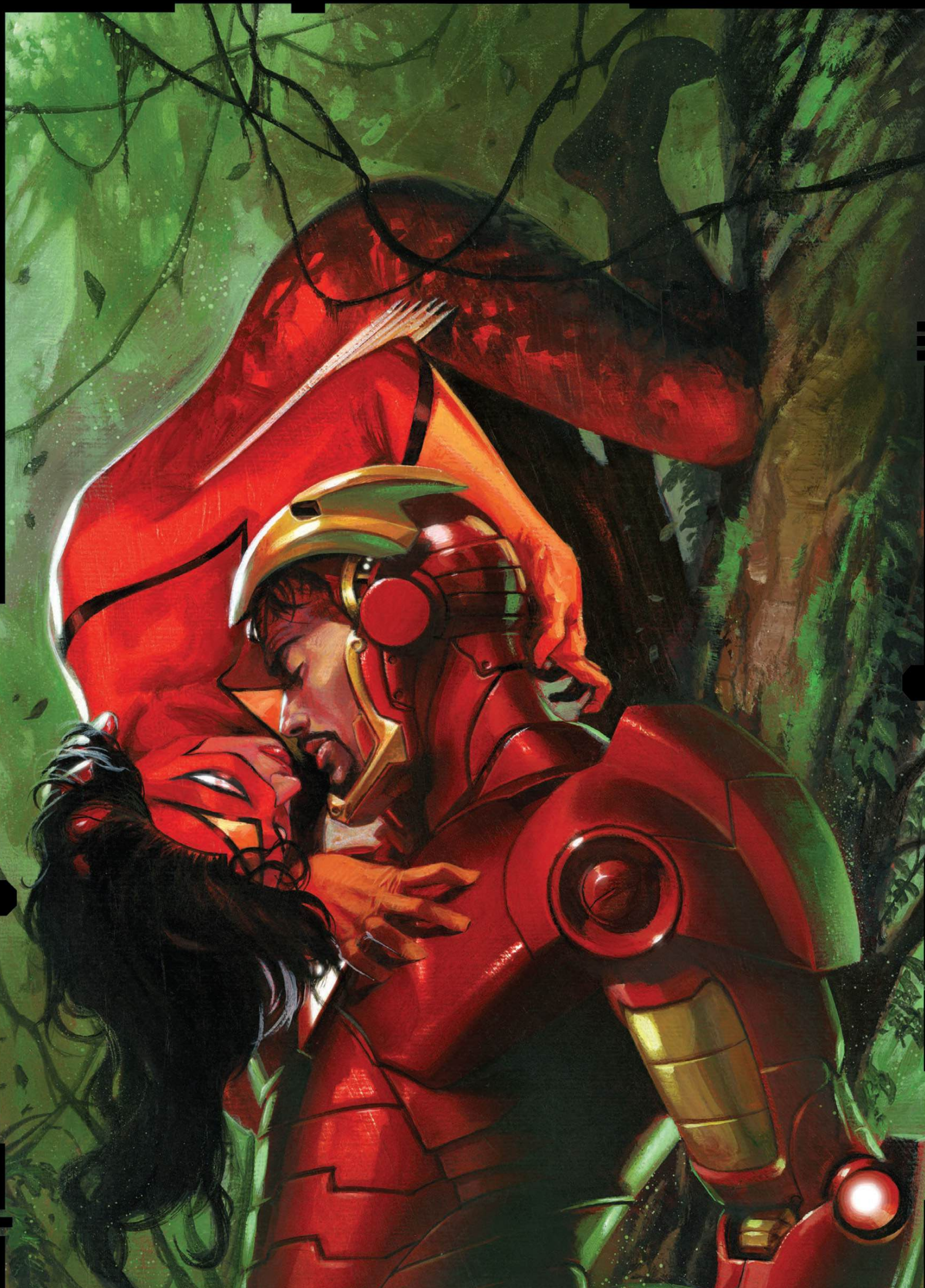



OH MAN...
SERIOUSLY.
I-I THINK THAT'S A--


FA-BOOM
FA-BOOM
FA-BOOM

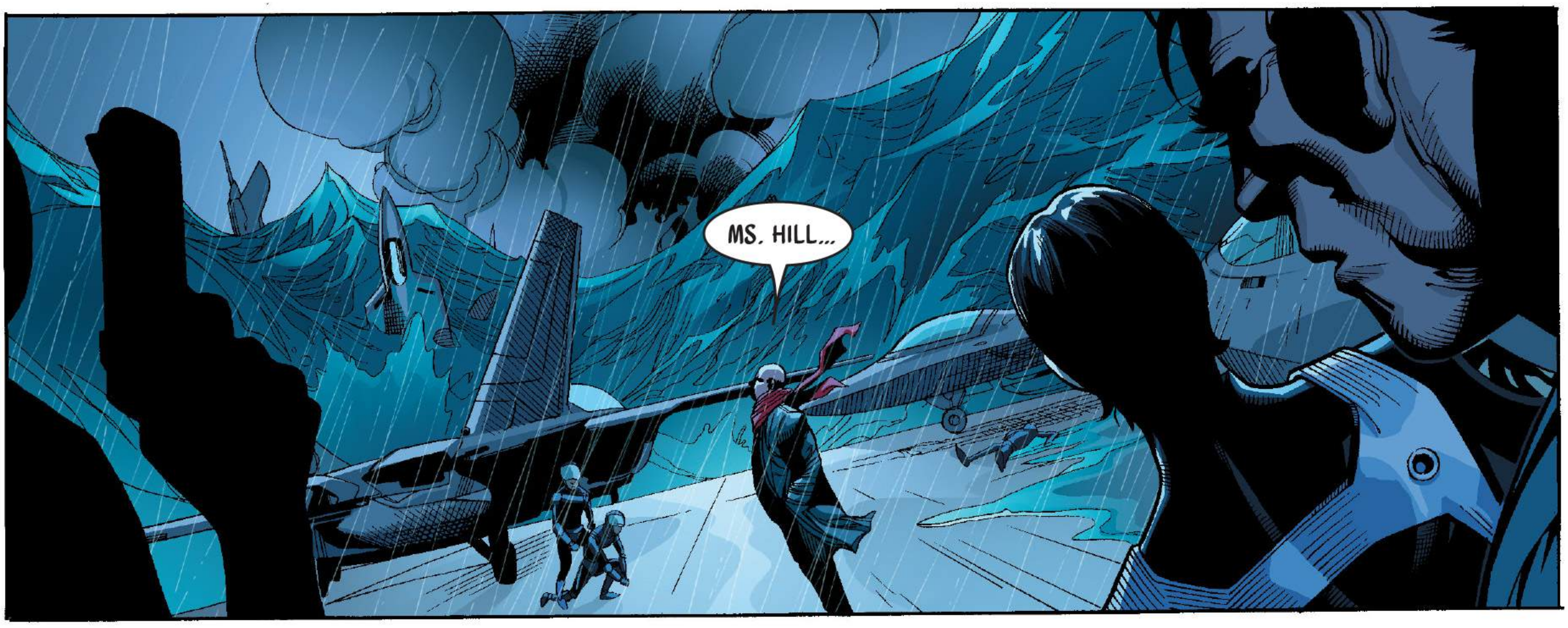

EVERYONE BRING A COSTUME?
WE'RE GONNA NEED MORE THAN COSTUMES...

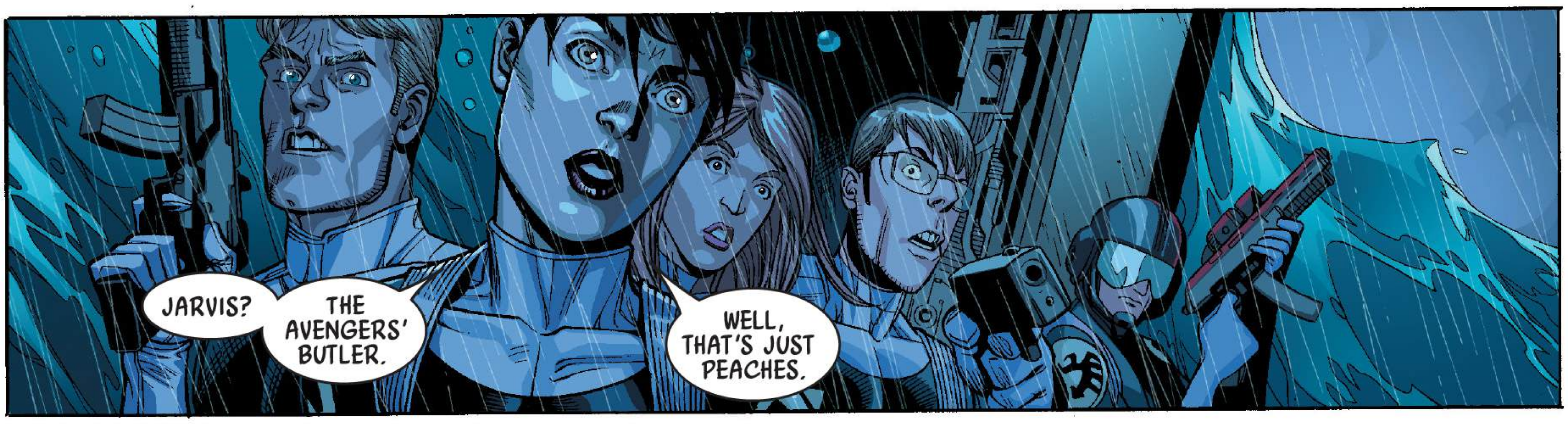
HO

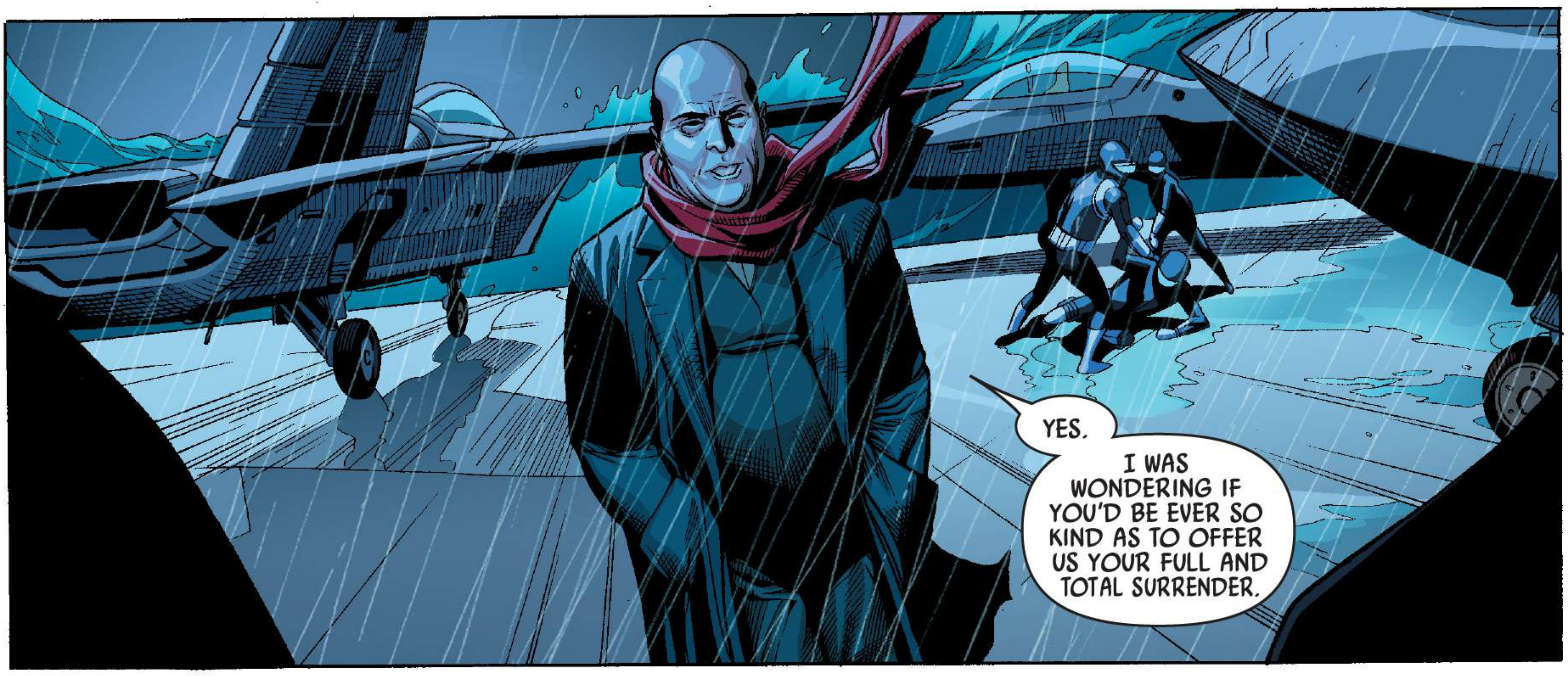


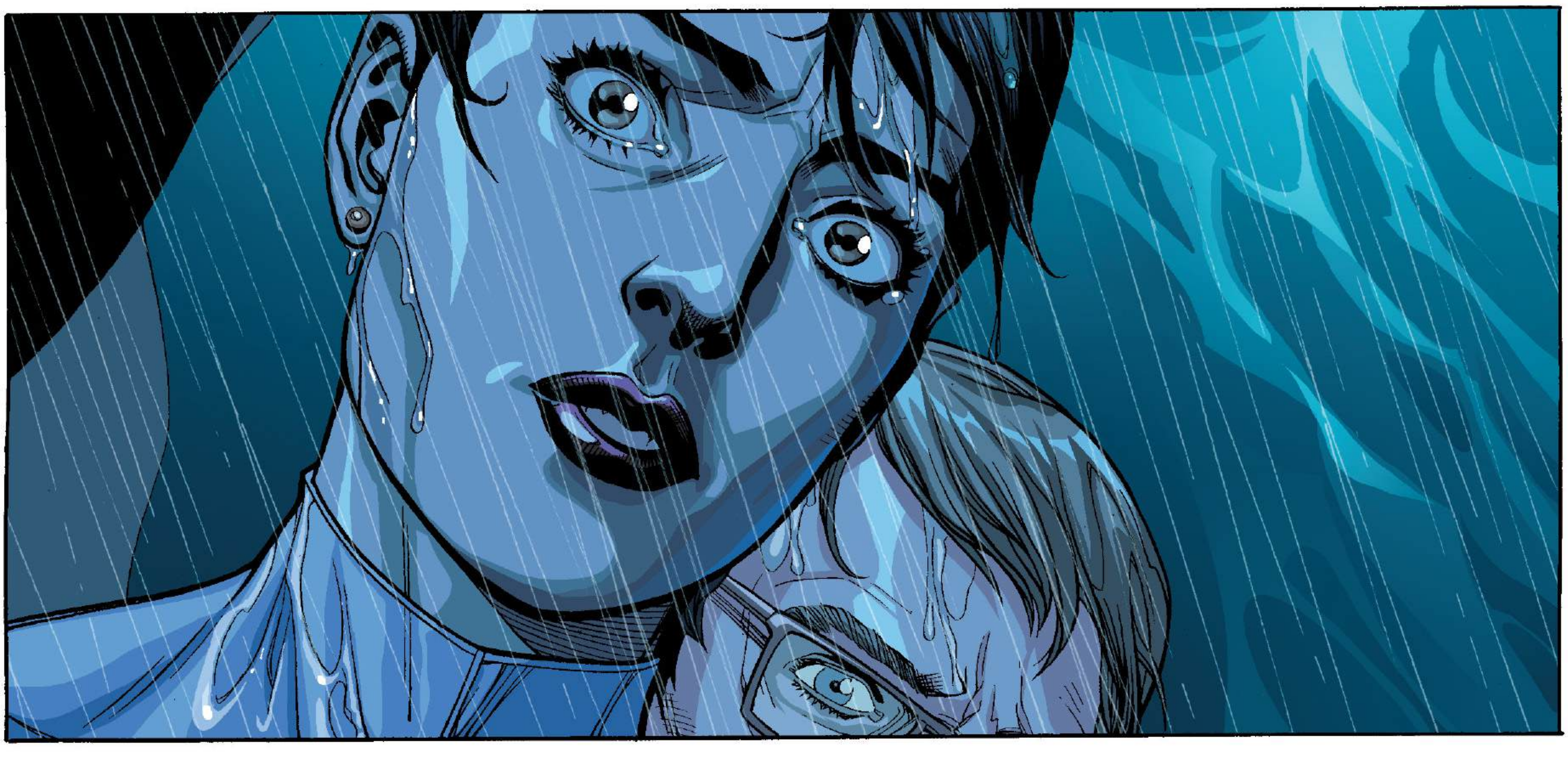
SECRET INVASION #3

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.
BERMUDA TRIANGLE
OKAY, WHERE ARE WE?
IT'S DIFFICULT TO SAY, DEPUTY COMMANDER HILL. ALL SYSTEMS ARE DOWN.
SHALL WE TAKE A PEEK OUTSIDE?
CASUALTY REPORT?
MA'AM, ALL OUR SYSTEMS ARE DOWN.
THEN GET A PAD AND A PEN AND DO IT THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY!
YES, MA'AM.
ALPHA TEAM, GRAB SOME WEAPONS AND FOLLOW ME. WE'RE HEADING UP TO THE FLIGHT DECK.
I'VE HAD THE SAME CAR SINCE I WAS NINETEEN YEARS OLD, NEVER HAD A PROBLEM.
YET THIS THING FALLS OUT OF THE SKY EVERY OTHER THURSDAY.
YES, MA'AM.
AGH!
OKAY, JUST HOLD STEADY AND--
MA'AM?
@#$%...


MS. HILL...


JARVIS?
THE AVENGERS' BUTLER.
WELL, THAT'S JUST PEACHES.


YES.
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D BE EVER SO KIND AS TO OFFER US YOUR FULL AND TOTAL SURRENDER.



THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN.
COYOTE SPRINGS, COLORADO, HEADQUARTERS OF THE THUNDERBOLTS
KRAKOOM
YOU CAN'T DO IT, CAN YOU?
AND MY GUESS IS YOU'RE NOT *EXACTLY* WHO YOU'RE DRESSED AS.
MY NAME'S NORMAN OSBORN, THIS IS MY OFFICE YOU TRASHED AND MY PEOPLE YOU SMACKED AROUND.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A DRINK AND TALK ABOUT IT?

CAMP HAMMOND.
TRAINING CAMP FOR ALL NEWLY REGISTERED HEROES IN THE INITIATIVE
HI, UH, WHAT'S GOING ON, EXACTLY?
WE ARE FREAKING OUT!
IS THIS A DRILL, MR. GAUNTLET?
AIN'T A DRILL, GORILLA GIRL.
YOU CADETS REALLY NEED TO GET BACK TO YOUR BARRACKS.
BUT, DIAMONDBACK, THERE'S NO POWER, THERE'S NO--
WE KNOW.
SOMETHING'S GOING ON! IF SOMETHING'S GOING ON YOU SHOULD TELL US, WE'RE--
OKAY!
LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY...POWER'S OUT, STARKTECH IS OUT, WE CAN'T GET S.H.I.E.L.D., TONY STARK, THE AVENGERS, OR ANYONE ELSE ON THE HORN.
SERIOUSLY?
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING, CRUSADER.
SO THIS ISN'T A DRILL? THIS IS THE REAL DEAL?!
PROTON, ALL OF YOU, LISTEN VERY CARE-- WHOA!
YELLOWJACKET?!
GUYS!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE CITY'S UNDER ATTACK! THE AVENGERS ARE--ARE MISSING!
WHO'S ATTACKING?
S.H.I.E.L.D. IS DOWN! EVERYTHING IS--!
WHO'S ATTACKING?!
ALIENS!
I DON'T KNOW WHO EXACTLY. I JUST--I JUST SAW THE SHIP OVER NEW YORK.
I-I-I-I CAN'T FIND ANYONE!
GET THE CADETS SUITED UP. IT'S TIME.
WE'RE GOING IN?
GUYS...THIS IS IT. THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE TRAINED FOR.
IT'S TIME.

TIMES SQUARE.
THE YOUNG AVENGERS
GUYS, THIS IS A LITTLE BIT OVER OUR HEADS, DON'T YOU THINK?
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO, KATE? LEAVE?
I'M UNABLE TO PATCH INTO ANY EMERGENCY SERVERS.
VO
NARCH
afe
COLBERT
(AND SO CAN YOU!)
HITS
STOP

I CAN'T PATCH INTO CAMP HAMMOND'S COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS.
THEY'RE SKRULLS!
AND I'M HALF A'ONE. MAYBE I CAN TALK TO THEM.
FSHBAM!
THERE ARE, LIKE, EIGHTY THOUSAND SUPER HEROES IN NEW YORK. WHERE IS EVERYBODY WHEN YOU NEED--AAGGHH!
STARK
Lucky
USCORP
C7
I FEAR STARKTECH HAS BEEN COMPROMISED.
THIS MAY BE MORE THAN JUST AN ATTACK. THIS MAY BE A FULL-SCALE INVASION.
SOFT
JAPANESE
UM, BROTHERS OF THE EMPIRE!
MY NAME IS HULKLING. I AM HALF SKRULL! I AM THE SON OF PRINCESS ANELLE! YOU HAVE TO STOP THIS OR--
AAARRGGH!
I'M ONE OF-- YAAAGGH!
TEDDY!
OH BOY...

FABOOM
FRAKOOM
SKL · 500
BEEP BEEP BEEP
WICCAN!
OH MY GOD! IS HE--?
GUYS, IT'S GONNA BE OKAY.
FACRUUNCCH

"THE *INITIATIVE* IS HERE."
TEAMS OF THREE! AND END IT FAST!
HOLD THE LINE TILL THE CAVALRY COMES!
NOTHING FANCY!
KRAKOOM
SMAAASSHH
OKAY, WHO'S NEXT?
UH, IN THE STUDIO, ARE WE RUNNING LIVE?
WE ARE NOW!

THE SAVAGE LAND.
ZZAATTCKK

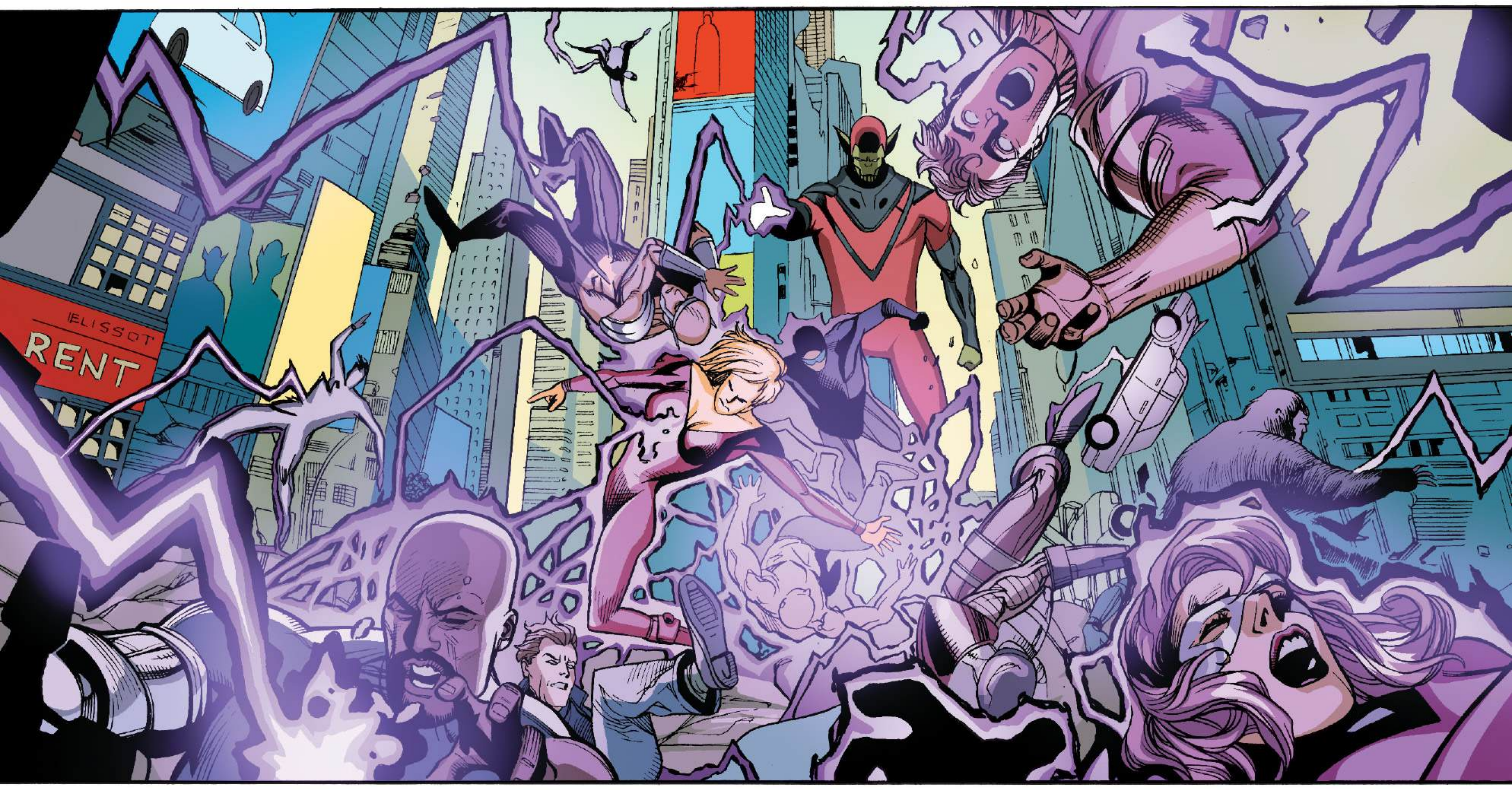
IT'S ME. ECHO.
I'M NOT A SKRULL, JESSICA.
I KNOW.
ZZAATTCCKK
ZAATTCCK
GUK!

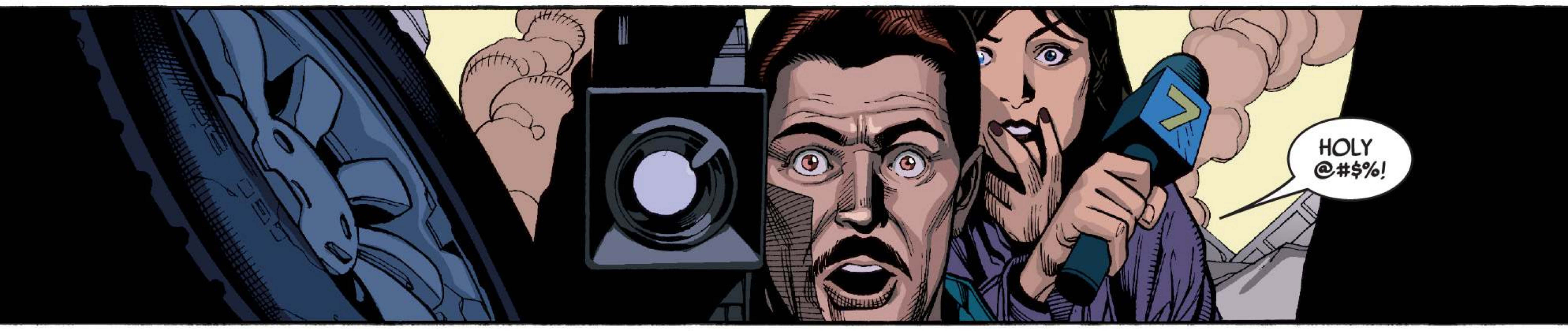
ZAATTCCK
CRACK
ARMOR?
STARKTECH ARMOR: COMPLETE SYSTEM FAILURE. VIRUS DETECTED. ALL SYSTEMS FAILING.
WELL THAT'S--COFF--MONEY WELL SPENT.
NEED TO DISCONNECT MY BIOWARE. THE TECH VIRUS IS HITTING ME LIKE PNEUMONIA.
I HAVE AT LEAST A HUNDRED AND TWO FEVER...
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, TONY?

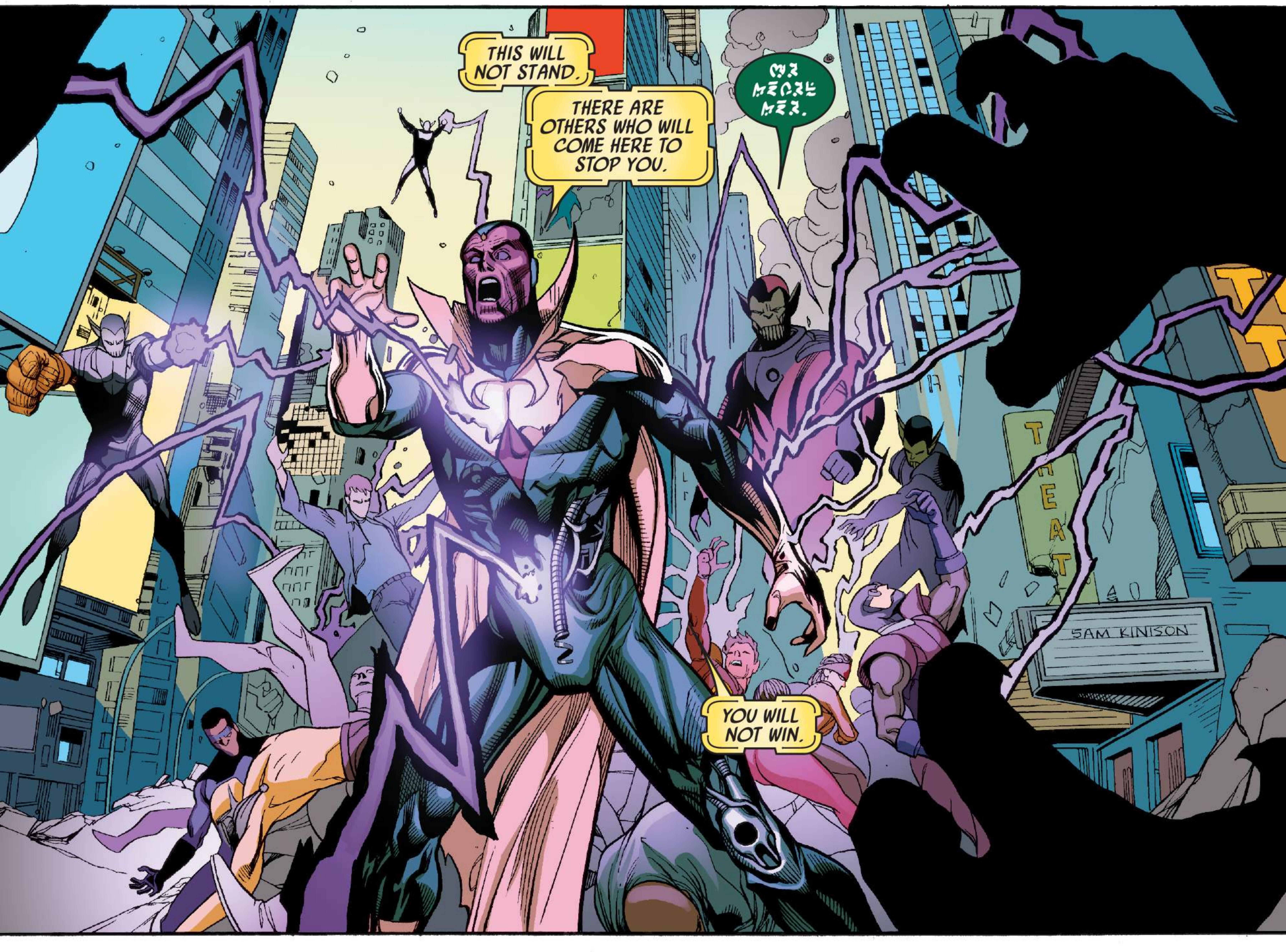
NOT TO BE IMPOLITE...
...BUT I'D AS SOON NOT TALK TO YOU OR ANYONE TILL WE FIGURE THIS ALL OUT.
YOU CAN RELAX NOW.
YOU DID IT.
YOUR WORK ON EARTH IS DONE.
MY WORK?
ON EARTH?
YOU WILL GO DOWN IN OUR PEOPLE'S HISTORY AS THE GREATEST SOLDIER THE ARMADA HAS EVER HAD.
STOP--
AND YOU WILL ALWAYS AND FOREVER HAVE MY UNDYING LOVE.
THE LOVE OF YOUR QUEEN.

I'M NOT A SKRULL!
I KNOW THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK.
STOP!
THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE TRAINED TO THINK!
STOP!
YOU SAVED OUR PEOPLE.
YOU SERVED SELFLESSLY.
AS I SAID TO YOU THE DAY YOU VOLUNTEERED: I AM SO SORRY IT HAD TO BE THIS WAY.
NO.
I'M SORRY THE TRUTH HAD TO BE HIDDEN EVEN FROM YOU.
S-STOP IT.
TURNING THE HEROES AGAINST EACH OTHER, POSITIONING YOURSELF AS THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THEIR WORLD...
N-NO...
BUT IF NOT FOR YOU, MY BRAVE, BRAVE WARRIOR, THIS DAY WOULD NEVER HAVE COME.
I DO PRAISE YOU AND LOVE YOU, KR'ALI...
THIS IS YOUR DAY WELL-EARNED.

TIMES SQUARE.
COVE
FMCC
KRAKOOM
STATURE!
CRICA
DRIV


ELISSOT
RENT


HOLY @#$%!


THIS WILL NOT STAND.
THERE ARE OTHERS WHO WILL COME HERE TO STOP YOU.
YOU WILL NOT WIN.
THEAT
SAM KINISON

ZZRRKKKTTTZZZ
CRAASSHH
NO, WAIT-- PLEASE--
KRRAAZZCCTT

MEKHI
CHANG
7pm
JOY
STI

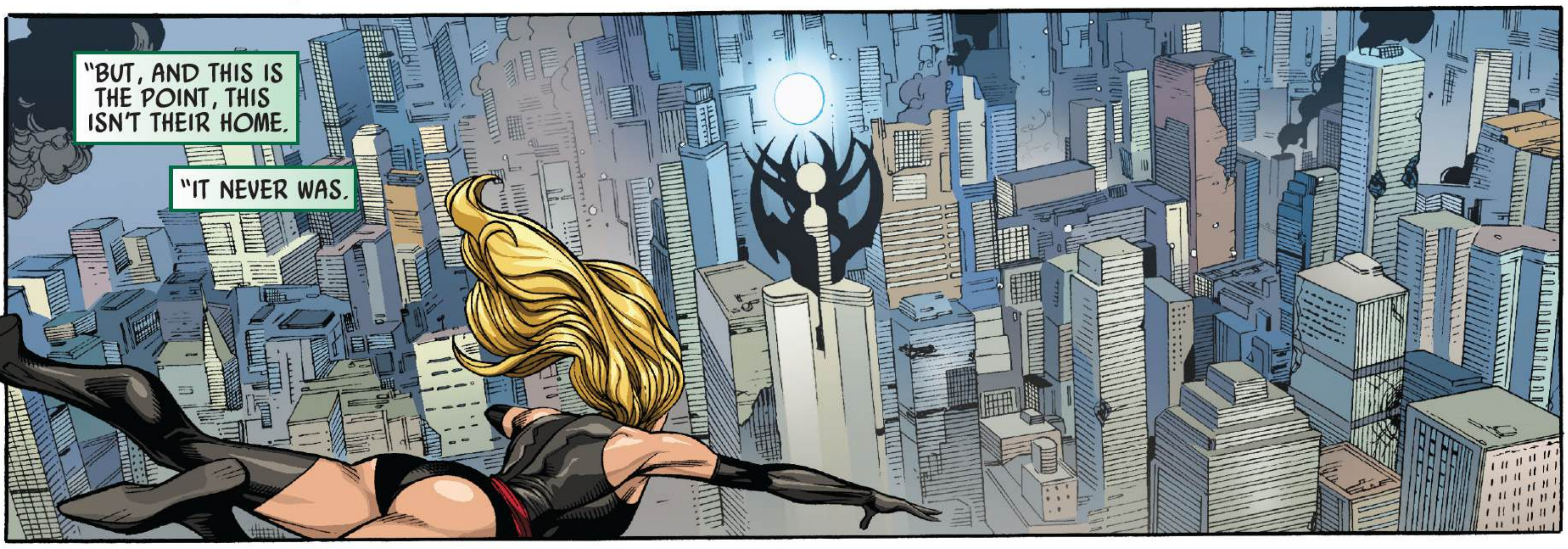
OKAY, COMMANDOS!
LET'S TURN THIS THING AROUND!
.140 GLOCK

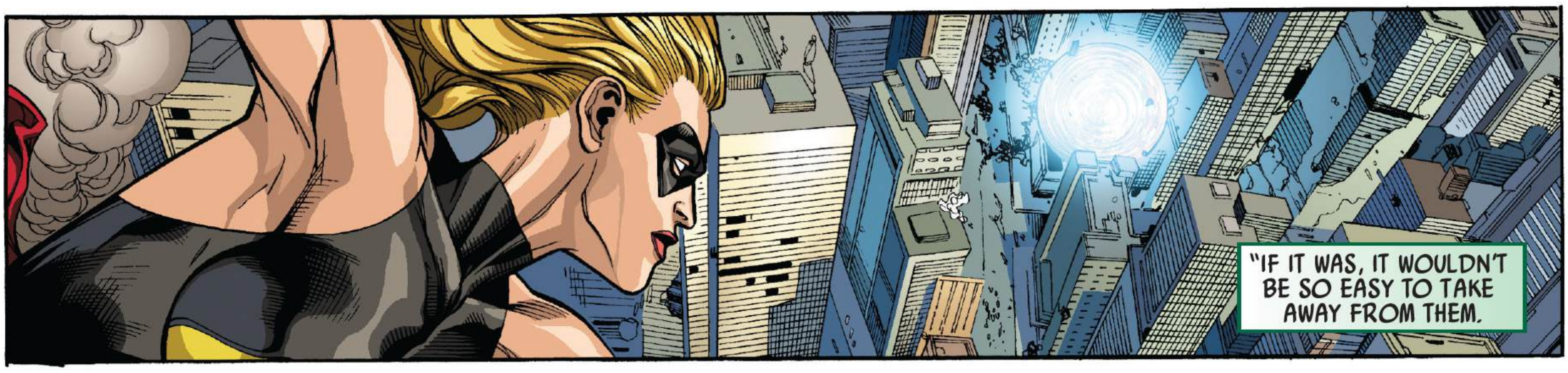
SECRET INVASION #4

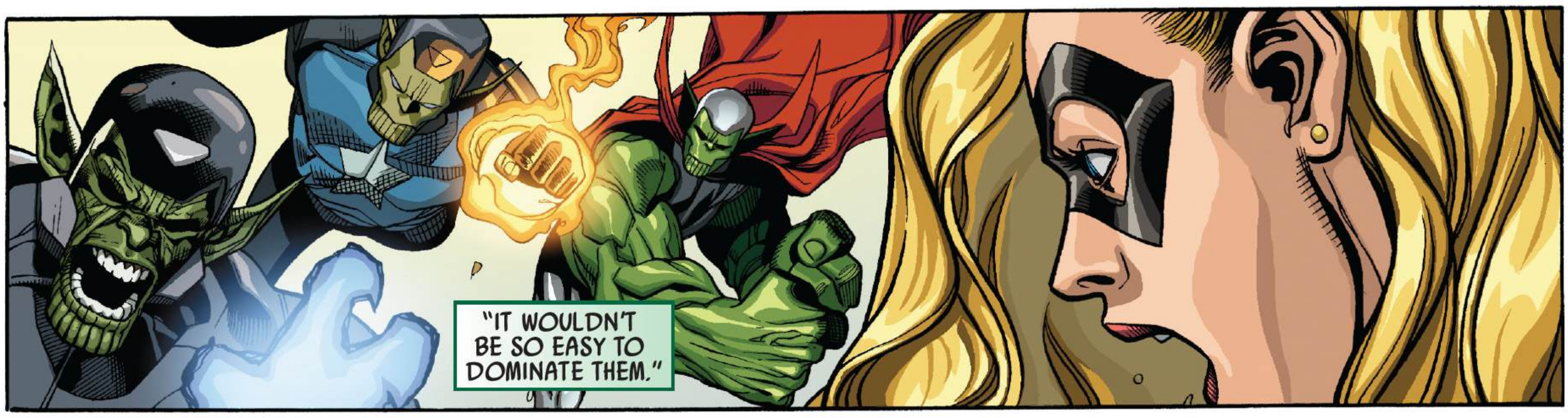
"IT'S AN INVASION.
"IT'S ALREADY HAPPENED.
"OPEN YOUR EYES.
"IT'S WAR.
"IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN.
"BUT *NOW?* NOW IT'S GOING TO GET UGLY BEFORE IT GETS...NOT.
"AND IF YOU THINK *THIS* IS BAD...
"WELL...
"THE EMPIRE HAS TAKEN THE PLANET EARTH FOR THEIR OWN.
"IT'S OURS. THAT'S HAPPENED.
"AND THE HUMAN RACE, WELL, NOW THEY ARE JUST THIS *THING* STANDING IN OUR WAY.
"SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH.
"WE'VE *STUDIED* THE HUMAN RACE. WE KNOW THEY UNDERSTAND THIS PERFECTLY.
"WE KNOW THEY'D HAVE DONE THE SAME.
"THEY *HAVE* DONE THE SAME.

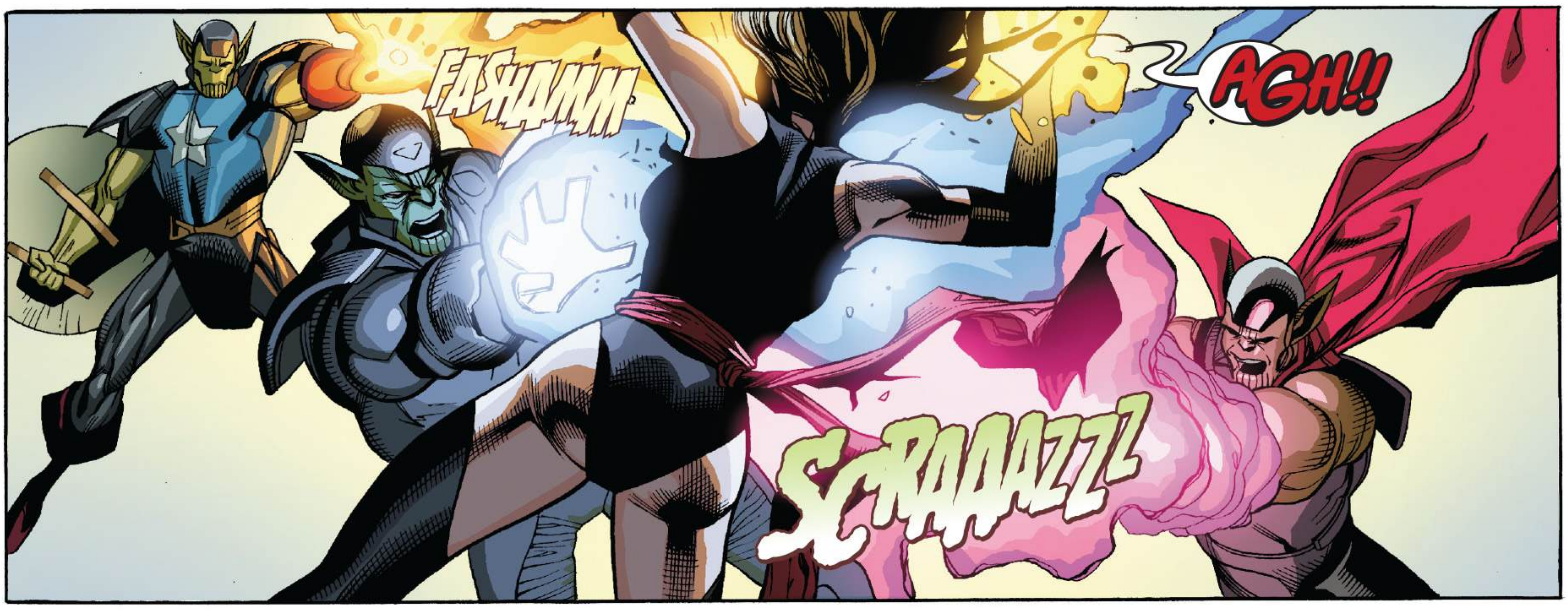
"IF THERE'S SOMETHING *THEY* WANT, THEY *TAKE* IT.
"IF, IN THE NAME OF THEIR GOD OR MONEY OR BOTH, THEY BELIEVE SOMETHING TO BE THEIRS...
"...THEY JUST *TAKE* IT.
"THEY EXTERMINATE THE INDIGENOUS AND JUST *SETTLE IN*.
"AND WHEN IT'S ALL SAID AND DONE, THEY WRITE THE HISTORY BOOKS *THEMSELVES* AND THEY MAKE *SURE* THEY COME OUT THE HEROES.
"'ALL *HAIL* THE CONQUERING HEROES.'
"AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THEY'VE DONE THIS FOR AS LONG AS MAN HAS BEEN ABLE TO.
"BUT TODAY--HOW THIS GOES TODAY--THIS WAS PREDETERMINED.
"PREORDAINED.
"THEY'LL FIGURE THAT OUT EVENTUALLY.
"IT'S NOT A BATTLE TO WIN OR LOSE.
"IT'S NOT A BATTLE.

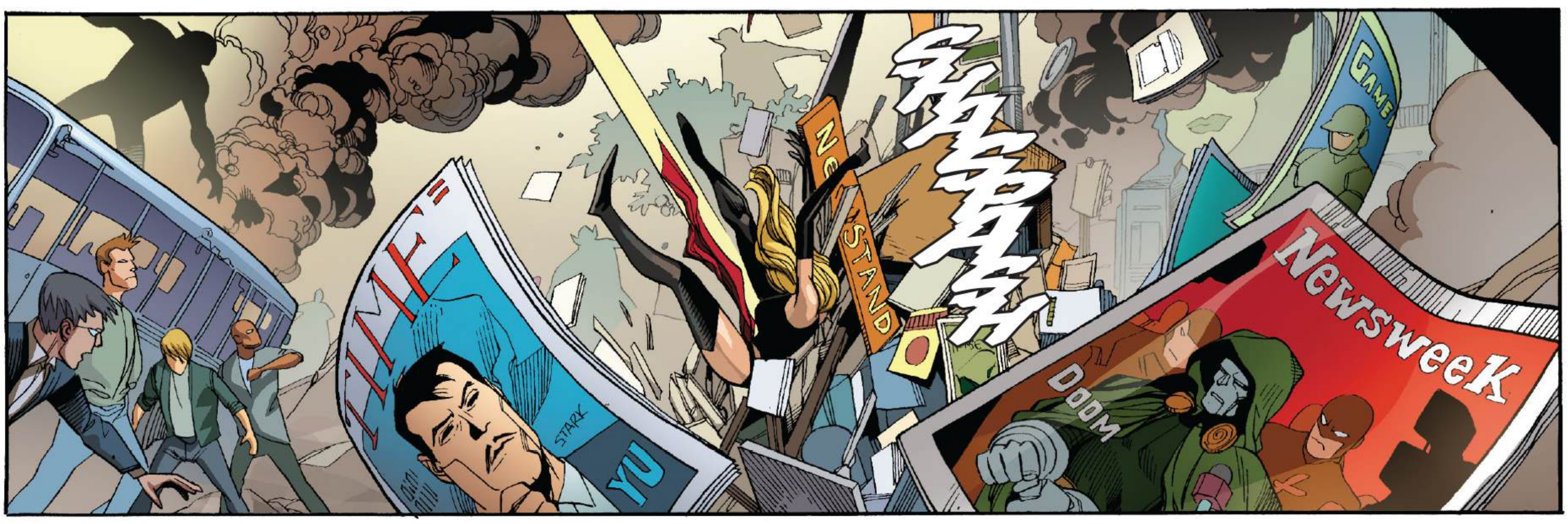
"BUT FIRST--THEY'RE GOING TO FOLLOW THEIR BIOLOGICAL INSTINCTS AND...
"WHAT'S A PHRASE THEY WOULD TURN?
"FREAK OUT.
"AND *THAT* IS UNDERSTANDABLE.
"IT'S TOO BAD. BECAUSE IT DOESN'T *HAVE* TO BE THAT WAY.
"IT WOULD BE NICE IF THEY TRIED TO *FIGHT* THE URGE.
"TRY TO *SEE* THE BIG PICTURE.
"IT WOULD BE A LOT EASIER FOR ALL OF US IF THEY COULD.
"OH, WELL.


"BUT, AND THIS IS THE POINT, THIS ISN'T THEIR HOME.
"IT NEVER WAS.


"IF IT WAS, IT WOULDN'T BE SO EASY TO TAKE AWAY FROM THEM.

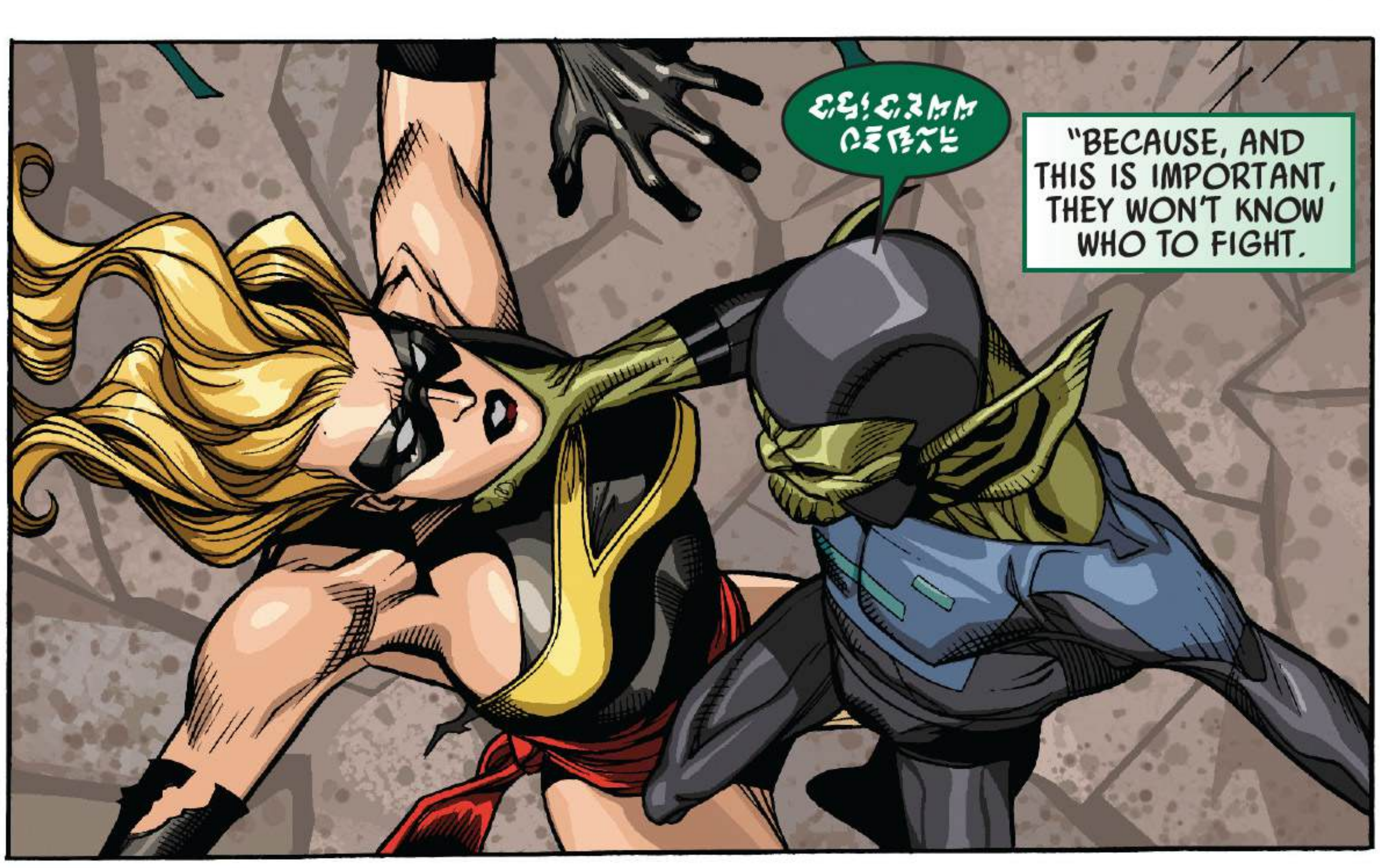

"IT WOULDN'T BE SO EASY TO DOMINATE THEM."

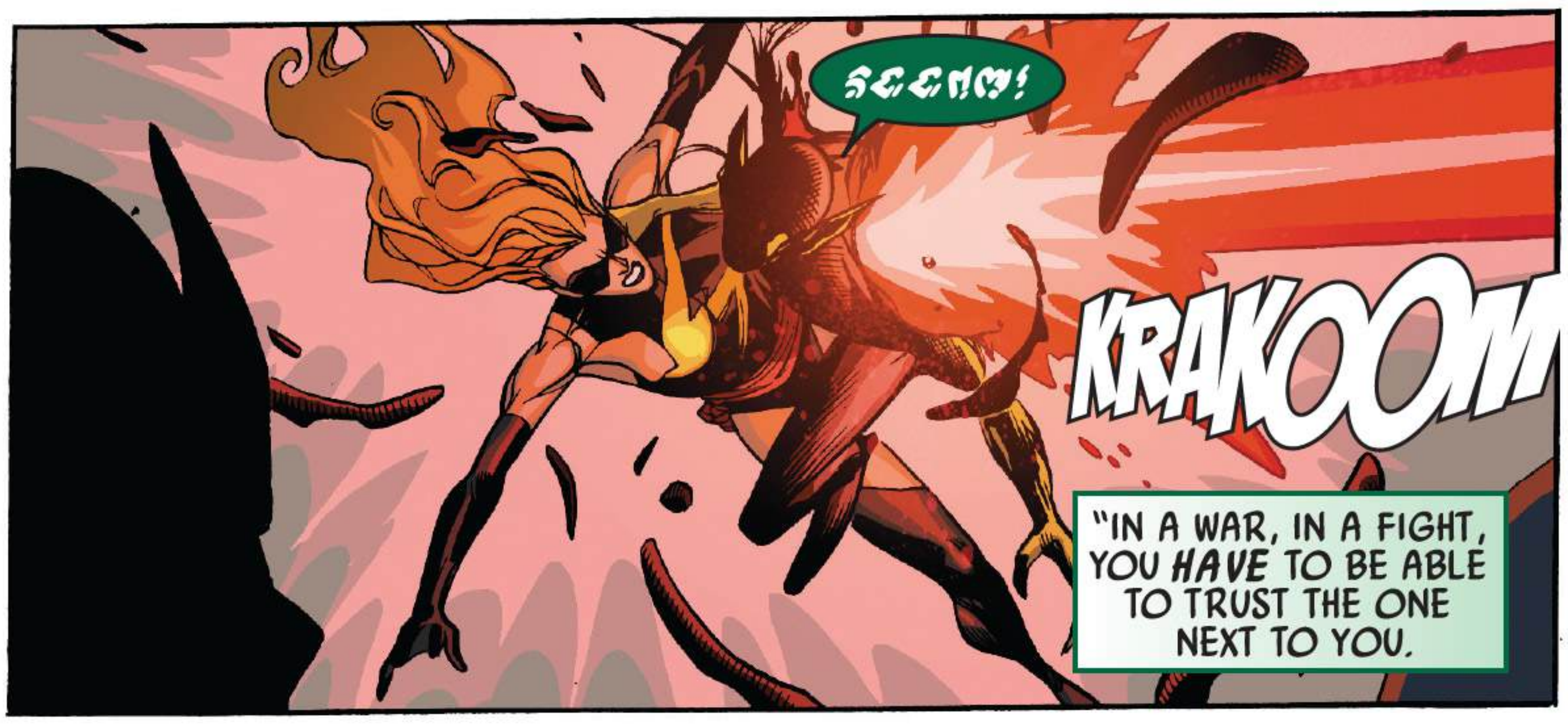

FASHAMM
AGH!!
SCRAAAZZZ

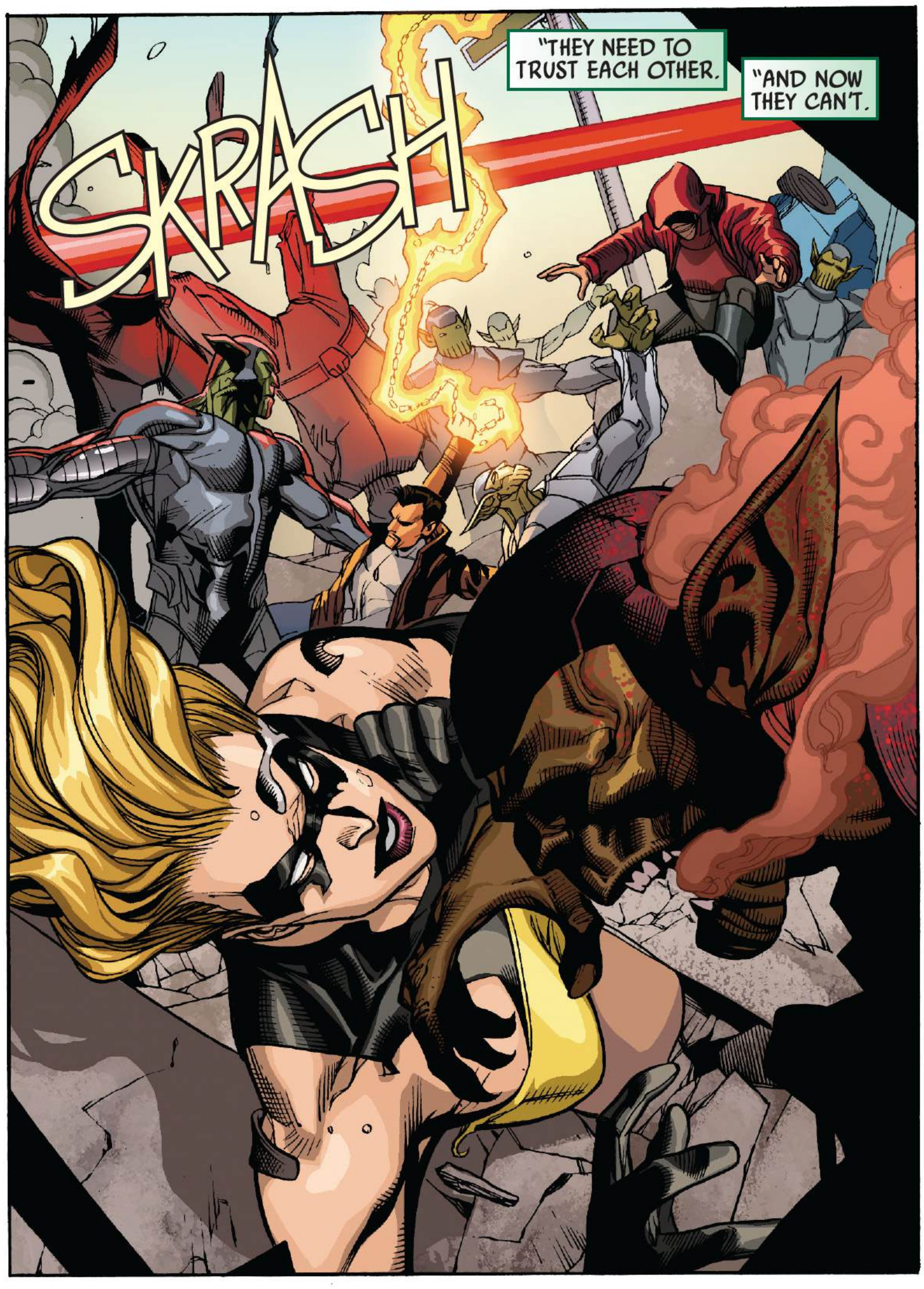

SMASSHH
NEWSSTAND
TIME
STARK
YU
Newsweek
DOOM
GAME

"I'M NOT SAYING THEY WON'T PUT UP A FIGHT. FIGHT THEY WILL.
"THEY MAY EVEN HAVE A TRICK OR TWO UP THEIR SLEEVES.
FISPAC LATUNTA!
HEY, LOOK AT THAT, MY FIRST EVER ALIEN!
NICK FURY?
LET'S NOT DALLY, COMMANDOS!! DO WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO!!
"GIVE THEMSELVES SOME FALSE HOPE.
HOOFAH!!
ALRIGHT! LET 'EM HAVE IT, STONEWALL.
Y'KNOW, DAISY, I'M NOT MARRIED TO THAT NAME YOU GAVE ME.
TOO BAD.
HEY! WATCH THE 'DO!
DRUID, GIVE ME SOME MAGIC!! I NEED A PATH.
SORRY, YO YO. I'M STILL A LITTLE GREEN AROUND THE EARS WITH THIS WHOLE WHATEVER THIS IS...
FALANA MUSTANANINA!
THERE YOU GO.
GOTTA TELL YA, KID, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT A LITTLE BOY GOD OF FEAR WAS GONNA DO HERE, BUT LOOK AT THAT?
GOT THEM BEATING THE HELL OUT OF EACH OTHER INSTEAD OF US!
I'M SAYIN' IT'S ALRIGHT.
AND I'M SAYING, I WISH I WOULD HAVE KNOWN I COULD DO THIS IN FIFTH GRADE.
OKAY, YA PUNKS, LET'S WRAP IT UP!!
I GOT THINGS TO DO!!
KRAKOOM

"BUT THEY WON'T WIN NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO.
"AND I'LL TELL YOU WHY.
NOT SURE YOU SKRULLS BROUGHT ENOUGH-- *HA!*
FOOM


"BECAUSE, AND THIS IS IMPORTANT, THEY WON'T KNOW WHO TO FIGHT.


KRAKOOM
"IN A WAR, IN A FIGHT, YOU *HAVE* TO BE ABLE TO TRUST THE ONE NEXT TO YOU.


"THEY NEED TO TRUST EACH OTHER.
"AND NOW THEY CAN'T.
SKRASH

"UP IS DOWN, BLACK IS WHITE.
"FRIENDS ARE ENEMIES AND ENEMIES ARE FRIENDS.
FURY? COMMANDER?!
GOT EVERYONE?
PRETTY MUCH.
LET'S ROLL.
WHAT ABOUT MS. MARVEL?
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS ONE.
"AND WITH *THAT* COMES PAUSE.
"*THAT* MEANS THEY CAN'T TRUST EACH OTHER ANYMORE.
HARRAAAABOOM
"TOUGH DECISIONS WILL BE MADE BY PEOPLE WHO CAN MAKE THOSE KINDS OF DECISIONS.
AAGGHH!!
TOOM
BUT--
SKRULL'S A SKRULL.
QUAKE, COVER OUR EXIT.

"IMAGINE WANTING TO FIGHT FOR OR--OR JUST *HOLD* THE ONE YOU LOVE.
"AND YET NOT KNOWING IF IT'S REALLY THEM.
RRUUMMMMMBBBLLLLLEEE
"TIMES IT BY A THOUSAND. A MILLION.
"IMAGINE THE *MADNESS.*
"AND ALL THE MISTRUST, JEALOUSY, HATE, FEAR AND BETRAYAL...
"THE FUNNY OF IT IS-- HALF OF IT WE PLANTED, THE OTHER HALF *THEY* BROUGHT WITH THEM.
"THEY'D HALF-DEFEATED THEMSELVES BEFORE WE EVEN GOT STARTED.
"THEY *ALREADY* DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO TRUST.
"AND WE JUST SAT BACK AND WAITED TILL ALL THE PARANOIA HAD BUILT TO HYSTERIA.
"WE WAITED TILL THEY WERE ATTACKING AND KILLING EACH OTHER.
"AND WHEN THEY WERE DONE. *THAT'S* WHEN WE LET THEM KNOW...
"THE WAR HAD HAPPENED AND THEY ALREADY LOST.

"SO HERE WE ARE...
"THEY'LL HIT BACK AT US.
"THEY'LL LASH OUT.
"BUT WE'RE READY."
THEY'LL SCRAMBLE BACK TOGETHER.
THEY'LL COME TO YOU FOR LEADERSHIP.
SAVAGE LAND
ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT YOU ARE *NOT* TONY STARK.
YOU ARE *NOT* IRON MAN.
YOU ARE ONE OF US.
THE REAL TONY STARK IS LONG GONE.
I KNOW TODAY IS A HARD DAY FOR YOU AND I KNOW YOU DON'T REMEMBER VOLUNTEERING FOR ANY OF IT.
BUT THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED.
FOR YOURSELF. FOR THE EMPIRE.
AND I PROMISED YOU I WOULD BE THERE TO HELP YOU THROUGH IT.
AND HERE I AM. WE WILL REHABILITATE YOU.
WE WILL FIND YOU A WAY BACK TO YOUR TRUE FORM AND FIND A WAY TO BRING YOU BACK TO THE THRONEWORLD.
TONY STARK.
YOUR REAL NAME IS KL'RIKI DULU.
AND WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE...
YOU ARE THE GREATEST WARRIOR IN THE EMPIRE.
AUSTRIA
RUSSLE

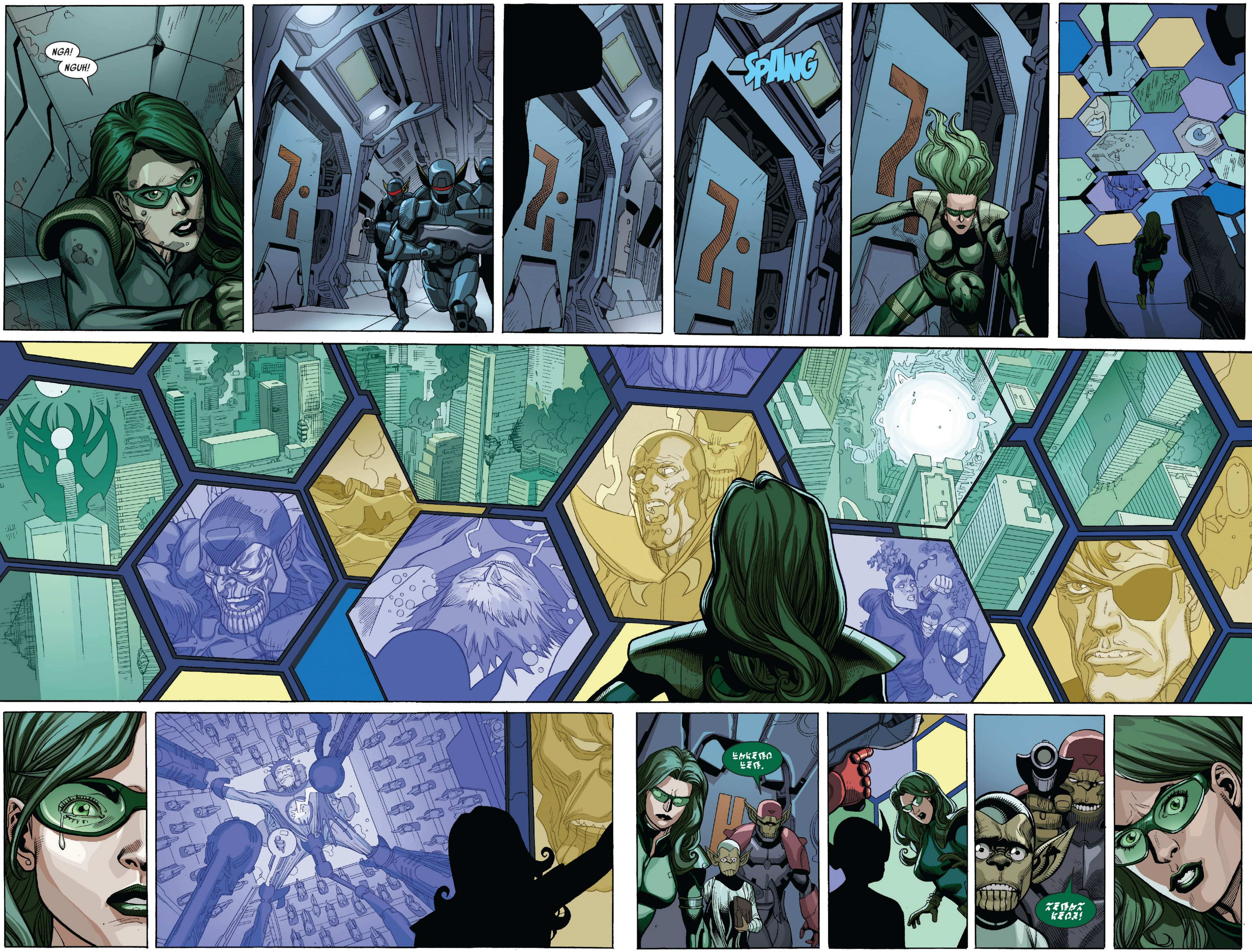
A SELFLESS HERO TO OUR PEOPLE.
OH MY STARS AND--
HEY, IS THAT--?
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABU
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDD
CAN WE HAVE A CONVERSATION BEFORE WE START WITH THE FIGHTING AND--?
NATASHA?
WHAT IS IT WITH THIS PLACE?
FUMP
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO SEE WHERE SHE WENT, DID YOU?
NNN...
OH, JESSICA!
TONY, IT'S NATASHA ROMANOVA. THE BLACK WIDOW. CAN YOU HEAR ME?
NNDD...I CAN'T--
SSSKRULL...
YEAH, SHE DID A NUMBER ON YOU, HUH?
TONY...
I'M GOING TO HIT YOU WITH A SHOT OF ADRENALINE.
IT'LL HURT BUT IT'LL GET YOU ON YOUR FEET FOR ABOUT AN HOUR.
HOPEFULLY.
AAGGHH!!

OKAY, TONY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
MMMIGHT BE A SKRULL.
YOU'RE NOT A SKRULL. SHE WAS WORKING YOU OVER.
NO.
TONY, *FOCUS.*
HOW DO YOU KNOW *YOU'RE* NOT?
THEY POISONED YOU, TONY.
NO, NO...
THEY COULD HAVE KILLED ME. THEY DIDN'T--
THEY'RE WORKING YOU BECAUSE THERE'S FIVE PEOPLE ON THE PLANET THAT CAN STOP THIS AND YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.
AND IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO TAKE YOU OUT, THEY WANT YOU DEFEATED.
THEY COULD HAVE KILLED ME. SHE HAD ME.
THEY COULD HAVE KILLED YOU WITH A POISON *MATZOH* BALL BEFORE YOU WENT TO *BED.*
THEY'RE KILLING THEMSELVES JUST TO *GET* TO YOU.
KILLING YOU ISN'T THE *POINT.*
THEY WANT TO DO TO YOU WHAT YOU DID TO THEM.
TONY...
IRON MAN...
SKRULL OR NOT.
I'M ASKING, RIGHT NOW, DO YOU WANT TO KILL ME OR KILL THEM?
THEM.
LET'S GO WITH THAT FEELING THEN.
AND WORRY ABOUT THE REST LATER.
MAKE SOME MORE NOISE WHY DON'TCHA?

BUDDA!
BUDDA!
BUDDA!
BUDDA!
BUDDA!
BUDDA!
BUDDA!
SON OF A--
DAMN IT, 'TASHA.
GIVE ME THE WORD.
AGH!!
GIVE IT TO ME!!!
CARROT STICKS.
AGH!
WHOSE WORD IS THAT?
SORRY ABOUT THAT, LOGAN.
I'M SHOOTING FIRST, ASKING QUESTIONS LATER UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
NOW HEAL UP AND GO RECON FOR JESSICA DREW. IF YOU SEE HER, SLICE HER.
WHERE'D CAROL GO, TONY? SHE TOOK YOU OUT OF THE FIGHT?
I SENT CAROL TO NEW YORK.
I NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NEW YORK.
WE GOTTA GET YOU OUTTA HERE.
EVERY SKRULL IN THIS PLACE KNOWS YOU'RE HERE NOW.
HE'S RIGHT. REBUILD THE ARMOR. REBOOT. LET'S GO.
WE NEED REED RICHARDS.

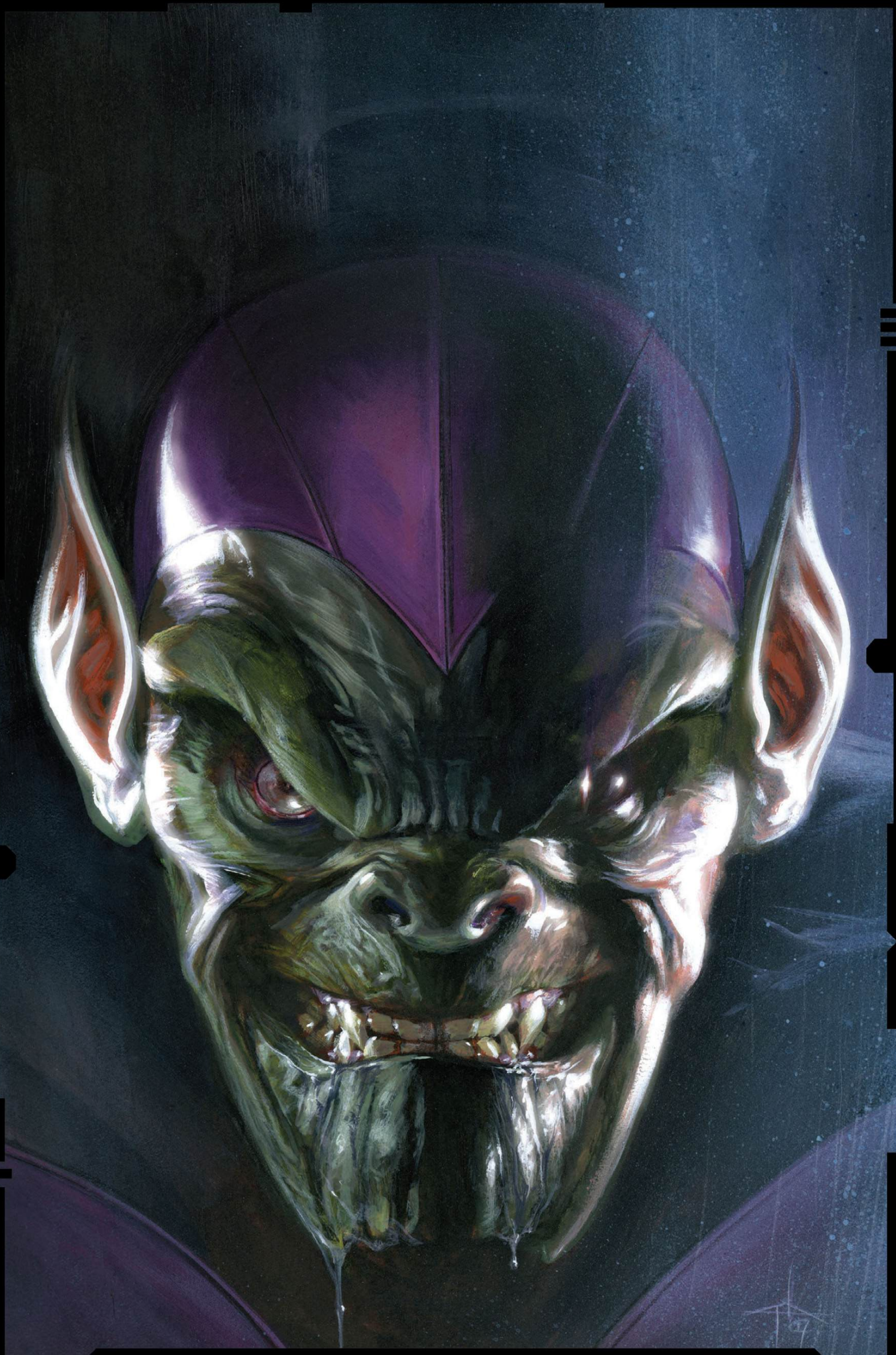
"OKAY, WHERE IS HE?"


NGA! NGUH!
SPANG

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER, BERMUDA TRIANGLE
SHOULD I ASK HOW LONG YOU'VE *BEEN* A SKRULL AGENT, JARVIS?
MS. HILL, WE ARRANGED YOUR POSITION IN S.H.I.E.L.D. FOR A REASON.
IT IS TIME FOR THE HUMANS' SURRENDER.
PLEASE DO SO PUBLICLY.
AND IN RETURN, WE WILL SPARE YOUR LIFE AND FIND A PLACE FOR YOU IN THE TRANSITION.
UH-HUH.
YOU DO KNOW YOU'RE ABOARD *MY* SHIP.
HMMM.
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE SEEING THE *GRAVITY* OF YOUR SITUATION.
WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT YOUR SURRENDER.

BROOKLYN.
LIVE
WHADDA WE DO, HOOD?
GET EVERYONE. EVERYONE WE CAN GET.
WE'RE GOIN' IN?
ITS NOT OUR FIGHT! LET THE HEROES AND THE ALIENS ALL KILL EACH OTHER.
NO MORE EARTH IS BAD FOR BUSINESS, YES?
WELL, UH, YEAH.
GET EVERYONE.

CENTRAL PARK WEST.
OH MY GOD!!
WHAT ABOUT THE SUBWAYS? CAN WE GO IN THE SUBWAYS?
MY PHONE'S DEAD!
YEAH, UH, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT!
PLEASE, LORD, PLEASE MAKE IT STOP...
KRAKABOOM



SECRET INVASION #5

THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN.
LET ME TELL YOU.
I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT HAVING VOICES IN YOUR HEAD.
VOICES PULLING YOU IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.
AND I ALSO KNOW SOMETHING-- THIS MIGHT SOUND STRANGE, AND IT IS--
BUT I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT NOT BEING SURE IF YOU'RE REALLY PINK...
...OR GREEN.
AND I CAN TELL YOU THIS...
CLICHÉ THAT IT IS...
ONLY ONE PERSON CAN DECIDE WHO YOU ARE INSIDE AND OUT.
AND THAT IS *YOU*.
NORMAN OSBORN, DIRECTOR
AND HERE YOU ARE--YOU'VE BEEN SENT HERE TO *KILL* US BUT I SEE THAT YOU *CAN'T*.
MAY I ASK...THIS FORM YOU'VE CHOSEN AS OUR DESTROYER...
WAS IT PICKED FOR YOU BY THE SKRULL EMPIRE OR DID YOU PICK IT YOURSELF?
IT WAS--IT WAS PICKED FOR ME.
WERE YOU A SLEEPER AGENT?
BY THAT I MEAN... DID YOU KNOW WHO YOU WERE *ALL ALONG?* DID YOU KNOW *WHY* YOU WERE HERE?
NO.
YOU THOUGHT YOU *WERE* THE KREE WARRIOR MAR-VELL.
YES.
THE MAN OF HONOR. THE WARRIOR. EARTH'S PROTECTOR.
YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE HERE TO PROTECT US IN OUR TIME OF NEED.
I AM SO SORRY.

FAKOOM
DIRECTOR OSBORN? WHAT IS THIS? WHAT HAPPENED?
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK.
GET THE THUNDERBOLT ALPHA TEAM UP AND ON THEIR FEET. GET TRANSPORT UP AND READY IN FIVE.
MAC GARGAN IS SOMEWHERE OFF CAMPUS. GET HIM.
IF ANYONE DOES ANYTHING OUT OF CHARACTER, SHOOT THEM ON SIGHT.
NOT EVERYONE IS WHO THEY SAY THEY ARE TODAY.
GIVE ME THAT.
WHAT'S HAPPENED?!
WE'RE AT WAR.

ELSEWHERE...
GUYS, I THINK SHE'S--
CASSIE?
THERE SHE IS.
WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE BARELY LIVING, CASSIE LANG.
PATRIOT, HAWKEYE, VISION...
OH, MAN... WHAT--WHAT HAPPENED?
GOT OUR LIVES SAVED.
YOU ALMOST GOT WHACKED... AND ON TV.
SERIOUSLY.
UH, WHO ARE YOU? WHERE ARE WE?
PHOBOS. GOD OF FEAR. NEW GUY. HEY.
LOOK WHO SAVED US...
OH MY GOD, IS THAT...
NICK FURY HIMSELF.
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED... THIS COULD END UP BEING FUN.
NOT EVEN CNN?
NOTHING. EVERYTHING IS DOWN.
THIS IS IT, SIR. WHAT YOU SEE.
THEY CUT *ALL* GLOBAL TRANSMISSIONS?! EVEN *I* COULDN'T DO THAT.
WELL, SIR, I'M NOT EXACTLY PHILO FARNSWORTH BUT--
UH, YOU GUYS TRY ON-LINE TOO?
YES, JERRY, THANKS, WE TRIED ONLINE.
JUST TRYING TO HELP.
49
UH... EXCUSE ME, MISTER FURY.
DUDE'S A COLONEL.
HE'S A GENERAL.
UH, WHO *ARE* ALL YOU PEOPLE? WHERE ARE WE?
HONESTLY, COLONEL, I THINK WE'D BETTER CUT POWER. THEY MIGHT BE TRACKING SIGNALS.
NOPE.
I THINK THEY'RE ABOUT TO TELL US HOW IT IS.
I'M SORRY, HOW ARE--
SHUT YOUR YAPS!!
IT'S HAPPENING.

WE'RE NOT HERE TO HURT YOU. WE'RE HERE TO SAVE YOU.
WE HAVE TRAVELLED ACROSS THE UNIVERSE TO SAVE YOU FROM YOURSELVES.
YOU HAVE SO MUCH POTENTIAL, BUT YOU'RE ON THE BRINK OF COMPLETE DISASTER.
YOU ARE AT CONSTANT WAR AND LIVING IN DISEASE YOU CANNOT CURE.
SOME OF YOU GLEEFULLY WALLOW IN EXCESS WHILE YOUR BROTHER NEXT TO YOU STARVES.
AND IN DOING SO YOU ARE DESTROYING YOUR ECOSYSTEM BEYOND REPAIR.
WHAT MOST DISTURBS US IS THAT YOU ARE FULLY AWARE OF YOUR SITUATION AND ACTIONS... AND THOUGH YOU'VE EVOLVED TO A PLACE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, YOU DO NOTHING.
Lucky
ABDCO
WE WISH NO HARM OR BLOODSHED...BUT WE WILL DO WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SAVE YOU.
COLBERT '08 (AND SO CAN YOU!)
Fmco SHIRTS
YOU WILL CONFORM. YOU WILL ASSIMILATE TO OUR WAYS. BECAUSE THEY WORK. AND BECAUSE YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.
AND YOU WILL DO THIS BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT WILL SAVE YOU AND YOUR PLANET.
THE EMPIRE HAS EVERYTHING YOU COULD EVER DREAM OF AND THINGS YOU HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN ABLE TO IMAGINE.
ALL OF THIS WE OFFER TO YOU.
THE EARTH IS NOW PART OF THE SKRULL EMPIRE.
YOUR DAYS OF POVERTY, HARDSHIP, DISEASE AND GREED ARE OVER.
HE LOVES YOU SO MUCH.

LOW EARTH ORBIT.
EMBRACE CHANGE.
WHAT IS THIS SHAPE YOU'VE TAKEN? WHO ARE YOU?
IDENTIFY YOURSELF.
EXCUSE ME?
IDENTIFY YOURSELF.
I DON'T ANSWER TO YOU. I'M PART OF THE QUEEN'S DELEGATION.
WHICH DELEGATION?
WE'RE AT WAR, SOLDIER! YOU DON'T AIM YOUR WEAPON AT A SUPERIOR OFFICER. GIVE ME THAT!!
MY--MY APOLOGIES. WHICH DELEGATION ARE YOU?

PSHAMPSHAMPSHAM
SPASH
PSHAM
PSHAM
PSHAM
PSHAMPSHAMPSHAM
PSHAMPSHAMPSHAMPSHAMPSHAMPSHAM
AAARRGGH!!
PSHAMPSHAMPSHAMPSHAM
PSHAMPSHAMPSHAM

WOOF.
THE KREE LANGUAGES I COULD WRITE A BOOK IN...
SKRULL I PROBABLY SOUND LIKE A DRUNK INFANT.
ALL HANDS, ABANDON SHIP! THERE IS A FLUCTUATION LEAK IN THE MAIN CABINS! ALL HANDS, ABANDON SHIP!
BEEP
EH, @#$%% IT.
FFFFFFF--!

AGH!!
CHOOM!
@#$%!
OH, MAN...
GLEE GAK
DOCTOR RICHARDS! MY NAME IS AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND!
I'M DIRECTOR OF S.W.O.R.D. WE'RE AT WAR WITH THE SKRULL EMPIRE AND I NEED YOU TO--

GAKK!!
MY CHILDREN, SKRULL!
MY WIFE! GIVE THEM TO ME OR I'LL KILL YOU RIGHT HERE!
I'LL KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU!
NOT...A--
YOU DIDN'T SHAPE-SHIFT BACK.
HMM.
YOU MONSTERS SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE.
BUT YOU NEEDED MY BRAIN.
ALL YOUR TALK...AND YOU COULDN'T DO THIS ON YOUR OWN.
STARK TECH IS COMPROMISED. THE BAXTER BUILDING IS...
I KNOW WHAT WE NEED.

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER, BERMUDA TRIANGLE.
WELL, JARVIS THE SKRULL, I WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.
MS. HILL. YOUR HEROES HAVE FALLEN, YOUR SYSTEMS HAVE SHUT DOWN.
AS WE SPEAK, THE WORD OF OUR INVASION AND INTENTIONS HAS BEEN BROADCAST TO EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING.
YOU ARE STANDING ON A SKRULL WORLD.
YOU ARE PART OF THE EMPIRE.
S.H.I.E.L.D. IS NOW A TOOL OF THE EMPIRE.
WAS I INTERRUPTING YOU?
I WAS TELLING YOU THAT WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER I'M GOING TO MAKE MYSELF A T-SHIRT.
I'VE NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE, BUT I DEFINITELY WILL NOW.
AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT T-SHIRT WILL SAY?
MS. HILL, I UNDERSTAND THE *"SMART MOUTH"* WHEN I HEAR IT.
I'VE BEEN LIVING AMONG YOU FOR MANY MONTHS.
NO, I UNDERSTAND THAT, I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
A MAN--A MAN I RESPECT CAME TO ME A FEW MONTHS AGO AND HE TOLD ME, HE SAID S.H.I.E.L.D. MAKES THIS VERY COOL... ROBOT (FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM)... A LIFE MODEL DECOY.
YOU KNOW, FOR USE IN ESPIONAGE OR COVERT OPERATIONS.
HE TOLD ME TO START USING THEM. THAT DOING SO WASN'T CHEATING OR A COP-OUT.
IT WAS JUST A SMART TACTICAL MANEUVER.
SO I'M SAYING TO YOU, WHEN I'M DONE HERE I'M GOING TO MAKE A T-SHIRT THAT SAYS--
EXECUTE HER.

BUDDABUDDABUDDA
BUDDABUDDABUDDA
IT'LL SAY: NICK FURY WAS RIGHT.
YUP.
PUT
UDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA
MARIA HILL.
SOCRATES. BOLOGNA SANDWICH. SOUPY SALES. CAMERON CROWE.
HELICARRIER SELF-DESTRUCT SEQUENCE ENGAGED.

WHRAAKAOOOOM!

AAGGH!!
WH--WHAT?
I DID A GENETICS TEST, MS. BRAND. I BELIEVE YOU'RE NOT A SKRULL. SORRY I CHOKED YOU OUT.
WHY IS THE SHIP VIBRATING?
ITS NOT VIBRATING.
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK.
HUNDREDS OF FLOATING SKRULL BODIES DOES SEND A MESSAGE.
I KNOW! I WAS MAD.
I NEED YOU TO FLY THIS SHIP AND FIND ITS CLOAKING DEVICE.
WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING?
THEY USED MY BRAIN TO ***START*** THIS WAR. I'M GOING TO USE MY BRAIN TO ***END*** IT.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? *"THEY USED YOUR BRAIN?"*
GOD--!
LISTEN TO ME!!
GET TO THE FLIGHT DECK AND GET US OUT OF HERE. CAN YOU DO THAT?
THE SHIELDS AREN'T GOING TO HOLD FOR--
FABOOM
WHAT WAS THAT? ARE WE HIT?
THAT-- THAT WASN'T US?

IT'S CAPTAIN MARVEL
OKAY!
FINALLY, SOME GOOD NEWS.
GET US TO NEW YORK, MS. BRAND. GO!
NOT NEW YORK!
MY FAMILY IS DYING!!
THE EARTH IS DYING, DOCTOR!
WE ARE GOING TO NEW YORK...
BUT WE HAVE A COUPLE PEOPLE TO PICK UP FIRST...
OR SHOW'S OVER.

THE SAVAGE LAND.
HYAAGGH!
TONY, GET UP, WE GOT COMPANY!
UGH!
SO, ANYONE *HERE* A SKRULL?
GREAT, NOW THEY GOT A KA-ZAR MAYBE.
THAT'S WHAT I SAID. I'M ALMOST CONVINCED IT'S HIM.
SAYS THE SPIDER-MAN IN THE FULL BODY STOCKING. OUT!
OUT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH STARK?
OUTSIDE, NOW!
WHO DID ALL *THIS?*
LISTEN TO THE WIDOW OR *I'LL* STICK YA!!
BACK ON OUT. ALLA YOU.
I COULD POINT IT RIGHT UP YOUR--
POINT IT SOMEWHERE ELSE, RED.
RRAARRG!!
EASY!
OKAY, GREAT! MORE TENSION!
WE HEARD GUNSHOTS AND THOUGHT, HEY, LET'S WALK TOWARDS THEM.
YEAH *I* DID THE SAME THING.
AND I USED TO BE SMART, I SWEAR TO GOD...
SO I GUESS *ALL* THE *"BIG TIME SUPER HEROES"* THAT CRASH-LANDED IN THAT SHIP WERE SKRULLS AFTER ALL.
NOT EXACTLY, LUKE.
BARTON, MAN, I'M TELLING YOU.
BACK OFF, CAGE. THIS IS MY *WIFE.*
HOW ABOUT E-EVERYONE JUST--?
I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHICH OF YOU *ARE* SKRULLS AND WHICH *ARE* NOT!

I'M EMMA FROST. THE WHITE QUEEN OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
I CAN READ YOUR MINDS. I CAN SEE INTO YOUR *SOULS*.
I'VE BEEN STUCK IN THAT SHIP FOR GOD KNOWS HOW LONG AND I WILL MAKE EVERY ONE OF YOU SKRULL CREATURES *PAY* FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
I'M TALKING TO *YOU*, "MISTER SPIDER-MAN."
I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE.
WELL, OKAY, *THAT* IS A BIG OL' LIE. SO NOW I KNOW *YOU'RE* A SKRULL!!
NOW THEY GOT US KILLIN' EACH OTHER AGAIN.
YES! TELL THEM!
(UNLESS *YOU'RE* A SKRULL. THEN HIT YOURSELF.)
HONEY, LET'S DITCH ALL THIS AND GET BACK TO THE MAINLAND.
YEAH, I THINK YOU'RE--
NO ONE LEAVES. MY NAME IS SUSAN STORM OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
AND I'LL HOLD YOU *ALL* IN A FORCE-FIELD UNTIL THIS GETS SORTED OUT TO MY SATISFACTION!
UM, WELL, LET ME JUST SAY ONE LAST TIME THAT I'M *NOT* A SKRULL!
AND, IF YOU PLEASE, GET THAT GUN OUT OF *THE BACK OF MY HEAD!*
THOR, IRON MAN, COME ON, GUYS...YOU TELL US WHAT TO DO.
YES, LEAD US. WHAT'S THE PLAN HERE?
I'LL TELL OF A PLAN!
BY THE POWER OF MY FATHER--
OH, MAN...
THY FOUL VILLAINY WILL COME TO AN END!
OH MY G--

LISTEN TO ME. THIS IS A TRICK OF THE--
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BLAM
SHUT YOUR @#$ING HOLE!
BAM
CRACK
KACHUNK
BOBBI, GO FOR THE--
CLINT...

JUST TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON? THIS ISN'T--
AAARRGGH!!
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDAB
SMACK

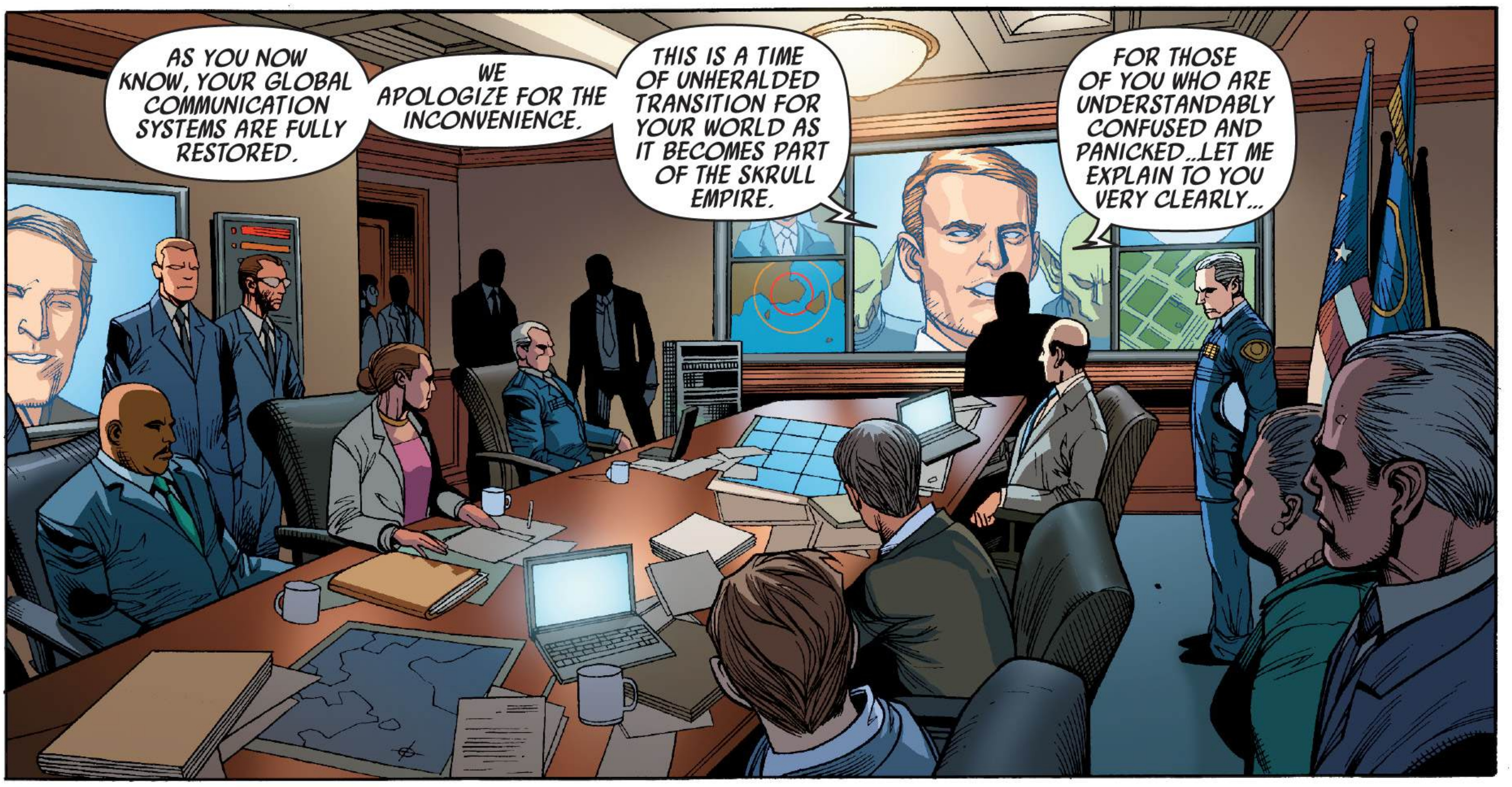
RRAARRGGHH!!
AAAIIEE!!
REED, HONEY? THANK GOD YOU'RE HERE.
THIS--THIS IS SOME NEW TRICK OF THE--
WHERE ARE MY *CHILDREN?!*
Y-YOU HAVE CHILDREN??
TONY? YOU SEE? TOLD YOU...YOU'RE NOT A SKRULL.
I CCCAN'T--
LISTEN TO ME, YOU'RE JUST SICK.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HUMAN RACE...NEW YORK CITY IS UNDER SIEGE AND THE EARTH IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SKRULL EMPIRE.
ANYONE IN THE MOOD TO *DO* ANYTHING ABOUT THAT...HOP ON BOARD.
WE'RE LEAVING NOW.
TONY? TONY?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
HE JUST WENT DOWN. THEY DID A REAL NUMBER ON HIM.
VVVIRUS.
THERE'S STILL SKRULLS OUT THERE IN THE JUNGLE.
WE'LL DEAL WITH IT. GO!
I WANT TO GO TO NEW YORK AND HELP THE FIGHT.
THEN GO. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS.
SPIDER-WOMAN WAS ONE OF THEM? WHERE IS SHE?
OUR SPIDER-WOMAN?
IT'S TRUE.
SON OF A--
CLINT, LEAVE IT...
LISTEN TO ME...
ALL OF YOU...

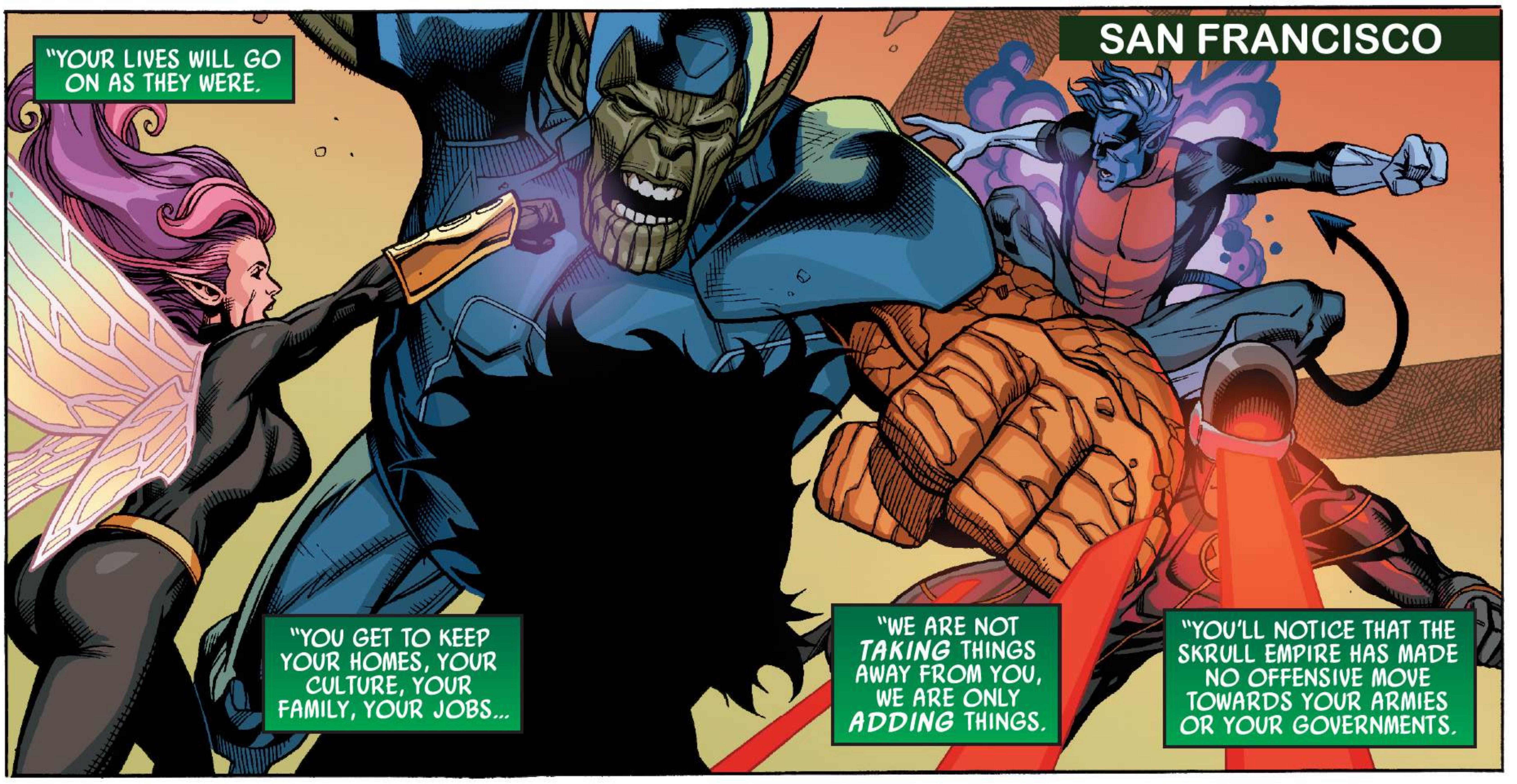
THIS DOESN'T END TILL EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM DIES!
YOU HEAR ME?!
EVERY @#$%ING LAST ONE OF THEM!

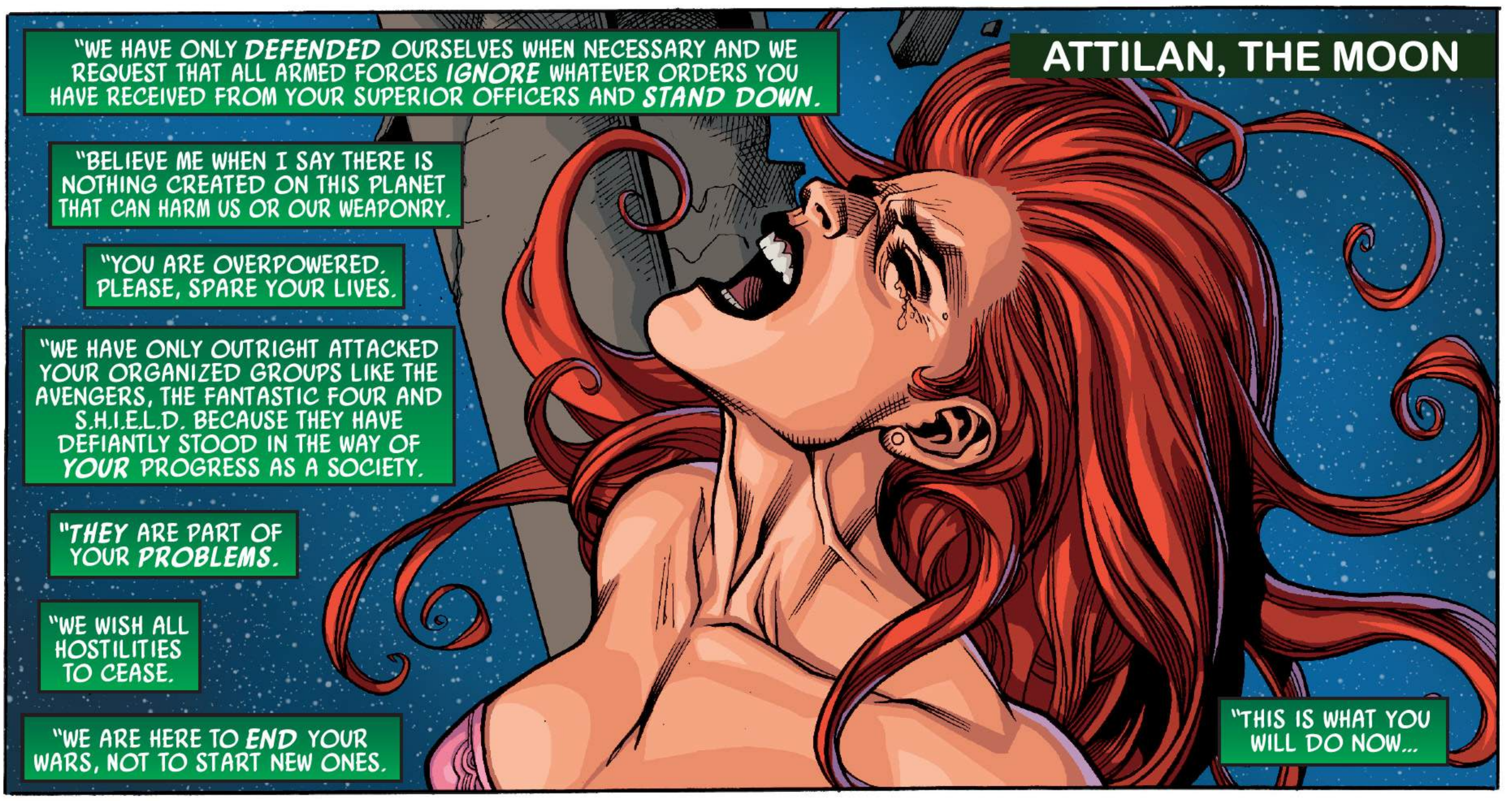
SECRET INVASION #6

NOH-VARR
MARVEL BOY
SABOOM
AliMall
06

MAAGGH!
SCOOM
ARE-- ARE YOU? MAR-VELL?
ARE YOU HE?
WHAT'SRRR YOUR NAME, KREE SOLDIER?
NOH-VARR. WHAT'S--WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?
THE SSSKRULL EMPIRE.
THEY HAVE TAKEN THE EARTH. YOU--YOU CAN'T LET THIS HAPPEN.
THIS--THIS IS NOT MY WORLD. THIS IS--
LISTEN TO ME!!
THEY WILL DO ANYTHING. THEY LIE TO THEIR OWN PEOPLE. THEY'LL KILL ANYONE OR ANYAGH!
THEY HAVE NO HONOR. THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE TRUE HONOR OF THESE PEOPLE. OR THE KREE.
I'VE LEARNED SO MMMUCH BEING MAR-VELL. I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH...
YOU CANNOT LET THIS HAPPEN!!
YOU!!
YOU ARE HERE FOR A REASON! WE ARE ALL HERE FOR A--!
"GOOD MORNING, EARTH.
"IT IS A NEW DAY."


AS YOU NOW KNOW, YOUR GLOBAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS ARE FULLY RESTORED.
WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.
THIS IS A TIME OF UNHERALDED TRANSITION FOR YOUR WORLD AS IT BECOMES PART OF THE SKRULL EMPIRE.
FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE UNDERSTANDABLY CONFUSED AND PANICKED...LET ME EXPLAIN TO YOU VERY CLEARLY...


SAN FRANCISCO
"YOUR LIVES WILL GO ON AS THEY WERE.
"YOU GET TO KEEP YOUR HOMES, YOUR CULTURE, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR JOBS...
"WE ARE NOT *TAKING* THINGS AWAY FROM YOU, WE ARE ONLY *ADDING* THINGS.
"YOU'LL NOTICE THAT THE SKRULL EMPIRE HAS MADE NO OFFENSIVE MOVE TOWARDS YOUR ARMIES OR YOUR GOVERNMENTS.


"WE HAVE ONLY *DEFENDED* OURSELVES WHEN NECESSARY AND WE REQUEST THAT ALL ARMED FORCES *IGNORE* WHATEVER ORDERS YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM YOUR SUPERIOR OFFICERS AND *STAND DOWN*.
ATTILAN, THE MOON
"BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THERE IS NOTHING CREATED ON THIS PLANET THAT CAN HARM US OR OUR WEAPONRY.
"YOU ARE OVERPOWERED. PLEASE, SPARE YOUR LIVES.
"WE HAVE ONLY OUTRIGHT ATTACKED YOUR ORGANIZED GROUPS LIKE THE AVENGERS, THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND S.H.I.E.L.D. BECAUSE THEY HAVE DEFIANTLY STOOD IN THE WAY OF *YOUR* PROGRESS AS A SOCIETY.
"*THEY* ARE PART OF YOUR *PROBLEMS*.
"WE WISH ALL HOSTILITIES TO CEASE.
"WE ARE HERE TO *END* YOUR WARS, NOT TO START NEW ONES.
"THIS IS WHAT YOU WILL DO NOW...

"LOVE YOUR FAMILY AND LIVE YOUR LIFE AND WAIT FOR WHAT IS TO COME.
"THE GLORY OF A NEW FUTURE.
"ONCE WE HAVE SETTLED IN, WE WILL BE REPLACING YOUR ENERGY SOURCES AND BORDERS.
"ALL AREAS OF MODERN CONFLICT WILL BE MOOT.
WAKANDA
"THOSE WHO WOULD RISE UP AGAINST US ARE IN FACT RISING UP AGAINST YOU AND YOUR FUTURE.
"ACCEPT CHANGE.
"EMBRACE CHANGE.
"LET IT WASH OVER YOU.
"LET IT MAKE YOU ALL THAT YOU HAVE EVER DREAMED YOU COULD BE.
"DO NOT FIGHT A FIGHT YOU CAN'T WIN.
"DO NOT FIGHT A FIGHT AGAINST YOURSELF.
THE SAVAGE LAND
ISRAEL
"EMBRACE CHANGE.
"HE LOVES YOU SO VERY MUCH."

CAMP HAMMOND, TRAINING CAMP FOR ALL NEWLY REGISTERED HEROES IN THE INITIATIVE. SKRULL EMPIRE EARTH INVASION HEAD COMMAND.
OKAY, SO, HOW DO WE THINK THIS IS GOING?
S.H.I.E.L.D. IS DOWN. S.W.O.R.D. IS GONE. THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN IS IN RUINS.
THE BAXTER BUILDING IS IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE. AVENGERS TOWER IS LOCKED DOWN. STARKTECH IS COMPROMISED BEYOND REPAIR.
BUT...THE ARMADA WAS ATTACKED LAST NIGHT.
YES, I KNOW ABOUT THAT.
FABOOM
THE MAR-VELL SLEEPER SKRULL HAD SOME SORT OF BREAKDOWN. THE COMMUNICATIONS WERE... DISTURBING.
BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THE SAVAGE LAND DEFENSIVE. THE SILENCE WORRIES ME.
IF THE EMPRESS IS ALIVE...
SHE CHOSE HER ROLE IN THIS.
WE SHOULD WIPE THAT ENTIRE SAVAGE LAND REGION FROM THIS PLANET.
THAT'S NOT ON THE AGENDA.
IF ANY OF THOSE AVENGERS ARE STILL ALIVE, THEY WILL COME HERE.
YES.
AND WE WILL ACCEPT THEIR SUBMISSION.
THEY WILL NOT SUBMIT.
THEN WE WILL DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.
WE HAVE THE NUMBERS.
WE--
WE HAVE THE UPPER HAND.
BUT THE SAVAGE LAND--
DON'T LOSE YOUR NERVE NOW.
EVERY WORLD THE EMPIRE HAS LIBERATED HAS GONE JUST AS THIS.
THAT'S VERY TRUE.

EMPRESS.
THE WORD FROM THE SAVAGE LAND CAMPAIGN...?
THEY HAVE BEEN BEATEN BUT NOT DEFEATED.
REED RICHARDS HAS THEM GATHERED.
WE WOULD IMAGINE THEY ARE HEADED HERE.
RICHARDS *ESCAPED* HIS *INTERROGATION?*
IT'S ALWAYS RICHARDS.
WELL, THEN *THIS* IS THE LAST TIME.
THIS COULD BE A DISASTER.
DID YOU SEE THE BAXTER BUILDING?
IT IS A THING OF BEAUTY. YOU'VE DONE AMAZING WORK HERE, NOLL.
IS JANET VAN DYNE WITH THEM? THE WASP?
YES, SHE IS.
THEN WE WIN.
AS A LAST RESORT.

THE AVENGERS
SO, ANYONE IN THE MOOD TO HIT A DENNY'S ON THE WAY HOME?
JOKES? REALLY?
COME ON. IT WAS *BARELY* A JOKE, LUKE.
HEY, ANYONE ELSE WORRIED ABOUT SKRULLS *FOLLOWING* US OR TRYING TO-- WHAT'S THE WORD I'M LOOKING FOR--
BLOW US OUT OF THE SKY?
EXACTLY.
THE SHIP'S CLOAKED, MR. BARTON.
BUT IT'S *THEIR* CLOAK.
A CLOAK IS A CLOAK. TONY, HOW ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
I'M A MESS.
MY SERVERS ARE DOWN. MY SYSTEMS HAVE FAILED. MY ARMOR IS USELESS.
I HAVE ACCESS TO A BACK-UP SYSTEM SERVER IN THIS PLATE, BUT I HAVE TO PURGE THE VIRUS TO GET TO IT.
AND THE VIRUS *WAS* MADE TO KILL ME, SO...
LEAST YOU'RE NOT A SKRULL.
AND JESSICA DREW IS.
THIS IS NOT YOUR FAULT.
I WANT TO KNOW *HOW LONG* SHE WAS PLAYING US.
AND WHERE'S THE *REAL* JESSICA DREW?
AND WHO ELSE DID THEY GET TO?

I BROUGHT HER IN. THIS JESSICA.
STILL NOT YOUR FAULT.
IT IS, JANET. ENTIRELY.
NOTHING YOU COULD HAVE DONE.
GUILT IS GOOD. LET HIM HAVE IT.
HE'S GETTING HIS SECOND WIND.
AND WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON WHATEVER SHE IS, I SWEAR TO GOD I AM GOING TO--
SEE? THERE HE GOES.
HEY, WE'LL BEAT 'EM.
AYE!
KLANG
WE WILL. THEY'RE WEASELS.
THEY CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, THREW EVERYTHING THEY HAD AT US...
AND LOOK, WE'RE STILL HERE.
EXACTLY.
I MEAN, SERIOUSLY, HOW MUCH DAMAGE COULD THEY DO...
...IN A...

THIS IS IT, MAN, THE REVOLUTION IS ACTUALLY HERE!
WHERE ARE THEY?
LOOK UP, MAN.
I KNOW, BUT WHERE ARE THEY SO WE CAN SAY HI?
elcome!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR--
HEY, YOU CAN'T!! I WAS JUST--
THE HELL ARE YOU KIDS DOING? GO BACK IN--
WE'RE GOING TO SAY WELCOME!
welcome!
TO WHO? TO THEM?
THEY'RE HERE FOR US.
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR--WE'VE BEEN INVADED. THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE DEAD!
WE'VE BEEN SAVED!
AND YOU'RE OUT OF A JOB, BECAUSE UTOPIA MEANS YOU CAN PUT THE FASCIST STICK A-WAY.
@#$! LOOK!
IT'S THEM.
THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL. AREN'T THEY BEAUTIFUL?
I KNOW. WE-- WE SHOULD GO TALK TO THEM.
HEY, GUYS!
YO!
WE'RE ALL ABOUT THE CHANGE, MAN.
"EMBRACE CHANGE." YES!! WE'RE SO WITH YOU.
WE JUST WANTED TO SAY...
...THANK YOU...
UH, DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?

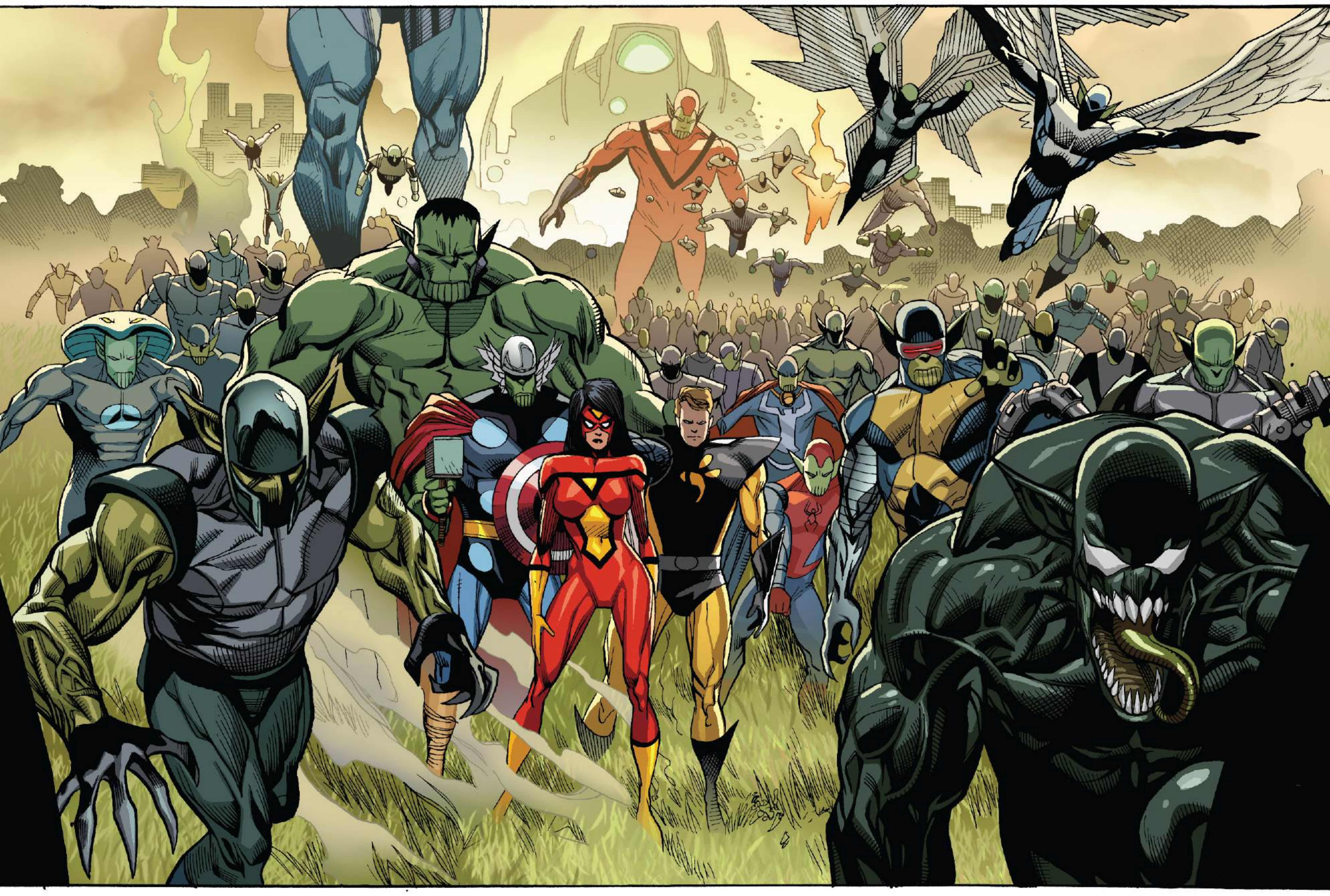
GET--GET AWAY FROM THEM!
GET BACK HERE!
LORD!
WHOA!
BAM BAM BAM
AGH!
ARGH!

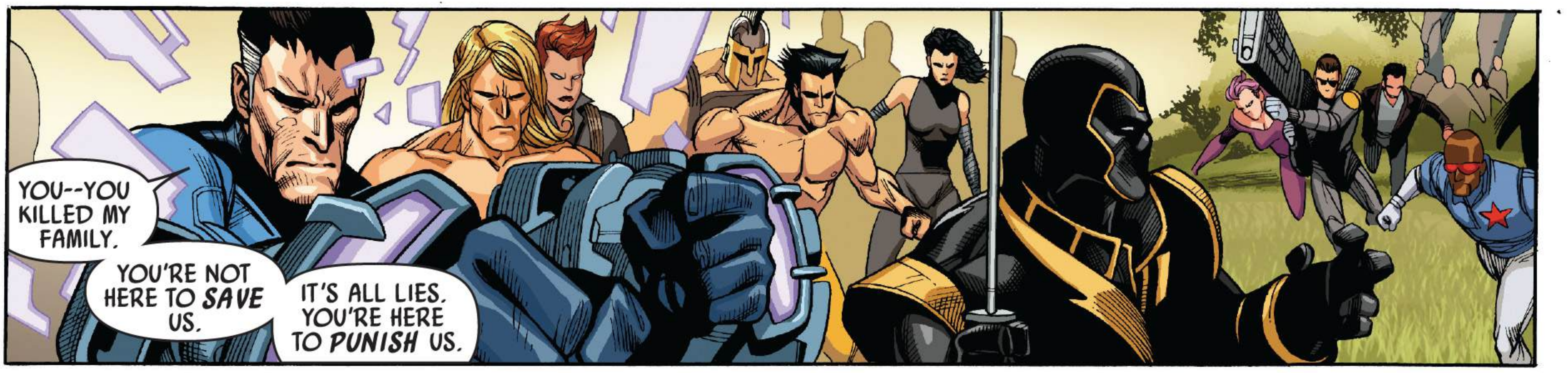
NICK FURY AND THE SECRET WARRIORS.
AND THE YOUNG AVENGERS
(AND WHAT'S LEFT OF THE INITIATIVE)
GO, GO, GO!!
SSSWWHHAACCK
HIT 'EM HARD, COMMANDOS.
AND STAY IN MY EYELINE. ALL Y'ALL.
YOU GUYS, MOVE!
WHAT'S GOINGAGH--?
THE HOOD'S SYNDICATE OF CRIMINALS
@#$, YOU GUYS SEEIN' THIS?
IS--IS THAT NICK FURY?
THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD.
BOOM
WELL THEY'RE ALL SHAPE-SHIFTED, SO WHO'S TO SAY WHO'S WHO?
YEAH, BUT THE ONES BEATING ON SKRULLS, THOSE YOU CAN PRETTY MUCH GUESS AREN'T.
YEAH, I COULD SEE THAT, HOOD.
UNLESS THAT'S THE TRAP.
YEAH, YEAH, LET'S GO DOWN AND BEAT ON EVERYONE.
NOT YET, WRECKER.
NOT YET? WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? YA GOT US TOGETHER TO TAKE THESE--
WE'LL KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME.
WE'LL KNOW WHAT?
WHEN IT'S--
OKAY, WHAT WAS THAT?

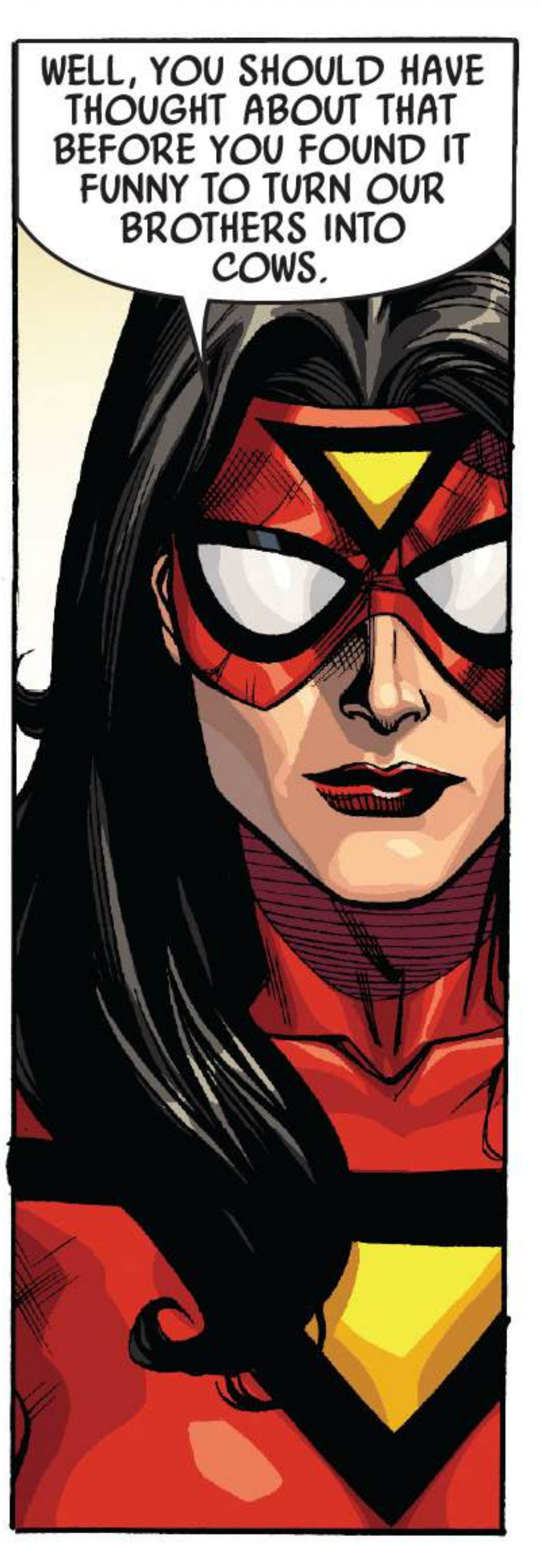
TOOK 'EM DOWN. WELL *ALRIGHT!*
GREAT, ONLY *EIGHT THOUSAND* MORE TO GO.
A WIN IS A WIN.
EXCEPT IT TAKES TEN OF US TO BEAT ONE OF THEM.
DET
OKAY, SO, WE SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE.
CASSIE, YOU SHOULD SHRINK BACK DOWN, YOU'RE TOO BIG A TARGET AT YOUR LARGER SIZE.
ONICS
YOU KIDS GET BACK TO THE DORM. OR BETTER YET, GET THE HELL OUTTA THE CITY.
OH, YEAH? WHY DON'T *YOU* LEAVE THE CITY? YOU FASCIST.
OH, MAN, ARE YOU, LIKE, NICK FURY?
THEY'RE HERE TO *CHANGE THE WORLD*. WHAT ARE *YOU* HERE FOR?
BOOM
UH...
IS THAT LIGHTNING?
LET'S MOVE.
STAY CLOSE AND STAY TOGETHER.

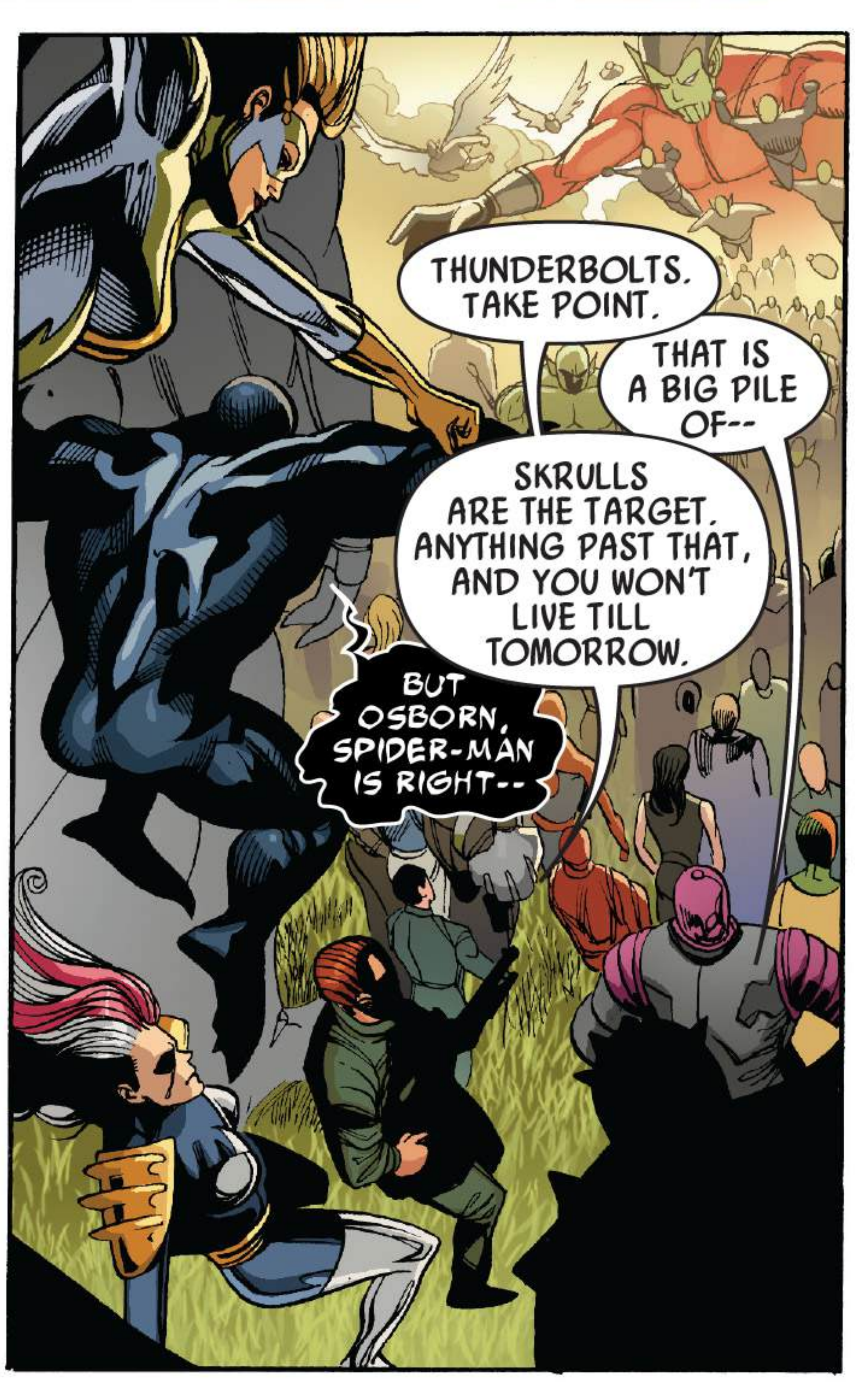
BOOM
WHAT WAS THAT?
BOOM
IS THAT...?
AYE! IT'S HIM.
BOOM
THOR, GOD OF THUNDER
GATHER THE GROUND TROOPS.
ALL OF THEM.
THIS-- THIS, TOO, WAS WRITTEN.
WHO ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?

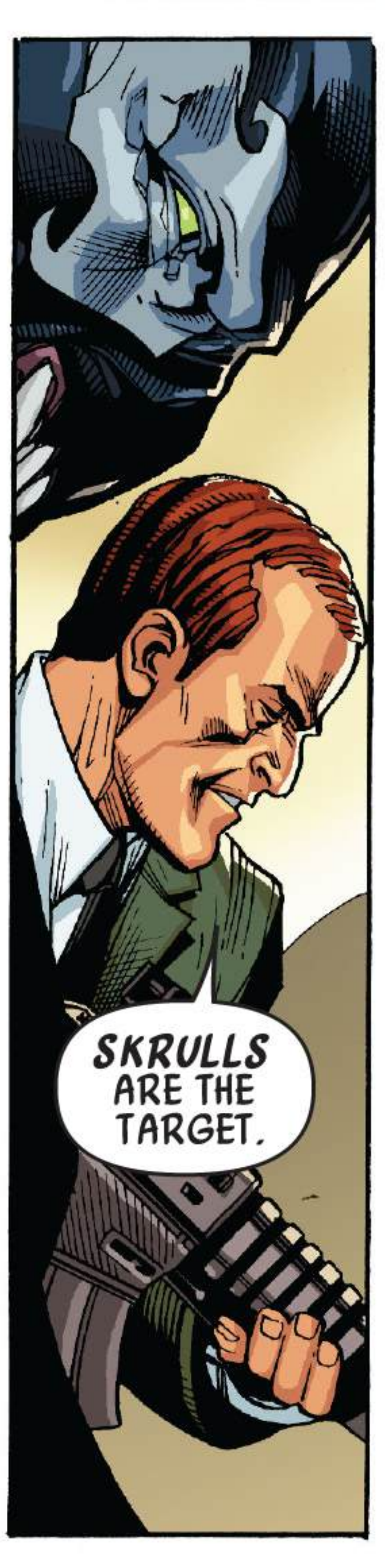
WHO DO I LOOK LIKE?
YOU WEAR THE UNIFORM OF CAPTAIN AMERICA. A TRUE FRIEND OF MINE, THE GREATEST AVENGER...
BUT YOU ARE NOT HE.
WEREN'T YOU DEAD?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, THOR?
ASSUMING YOU *ARE* THOR.
IT'S HIM.
SUMMONING THE BATTLE THAT MUST BE FOUGHT.
BOOM
YEAH, UH, I--I THINK THEY GOT THE MESSAGE.

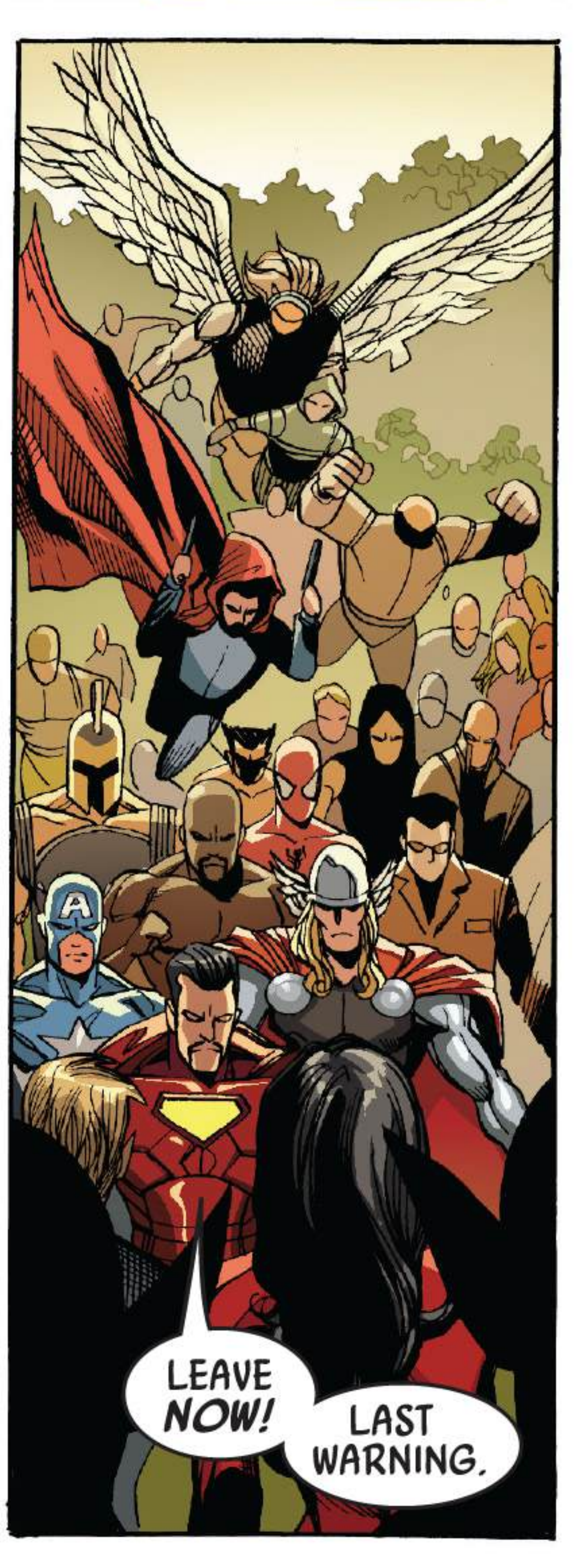



YOU--YOU KILLED MY FAMILY.
YOU'RE NOT HERE TO **SAVE** US.
IT'S ALL LIES. YOU'RE HERE TO **PUNISH** US.


WELL, YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT BEFORE YOU FOUND IT FUNNY TO TURN OUR BROTHERS INTO COWS.

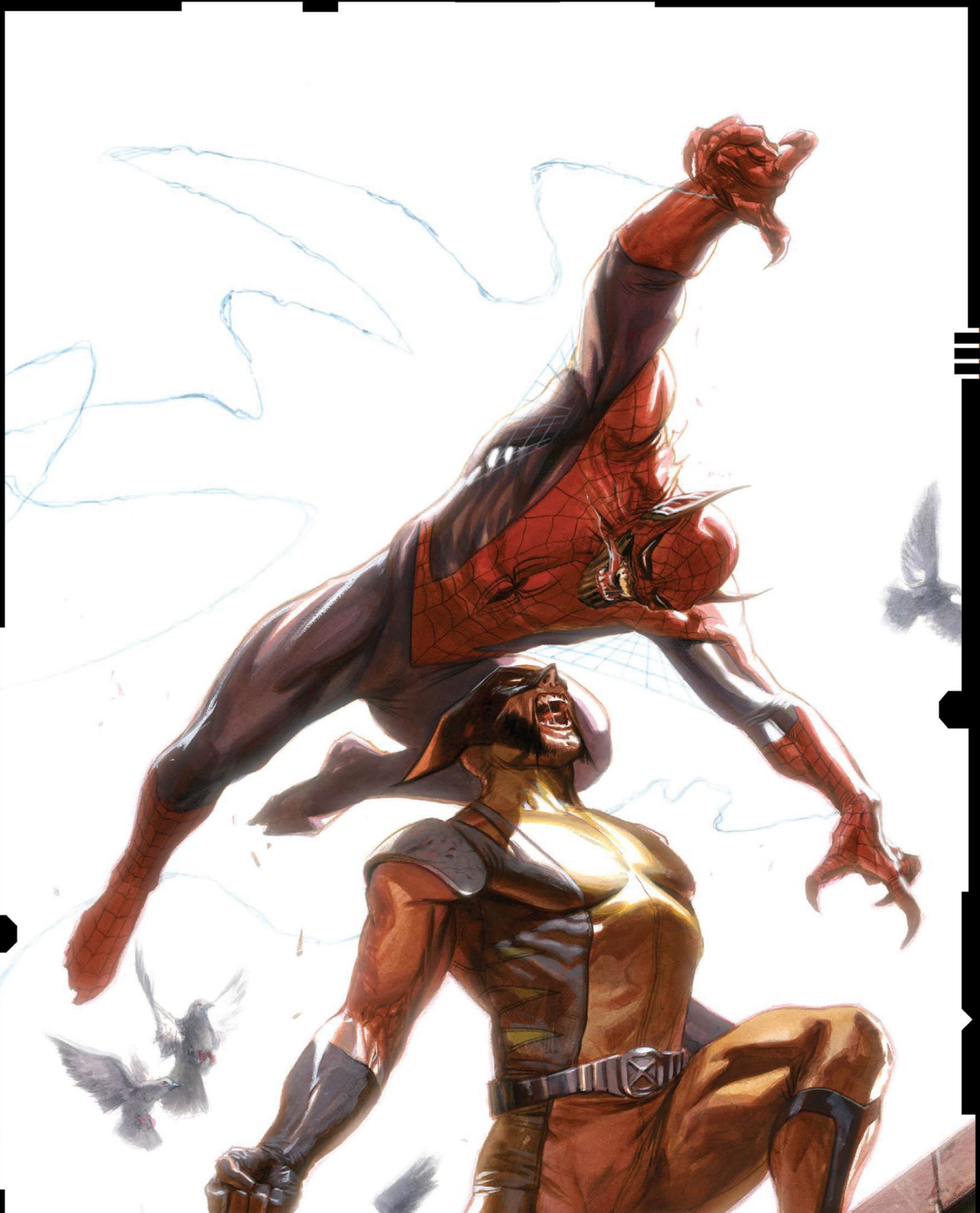

THUNDERBOLTS. TAKE POINT.
THAT IS A BIG PILE OF--
SKRULLS ARE THE TARGET. ANYTHING PAST THAT, AND YOU WON'T LIVE TILL TOMORROW.
BUT OSBORN, SPIDER-MAN IS RIGHT--


SKRULLS ARE THE TARGET.


LEAVE **NOW!**
LAST WARNING.

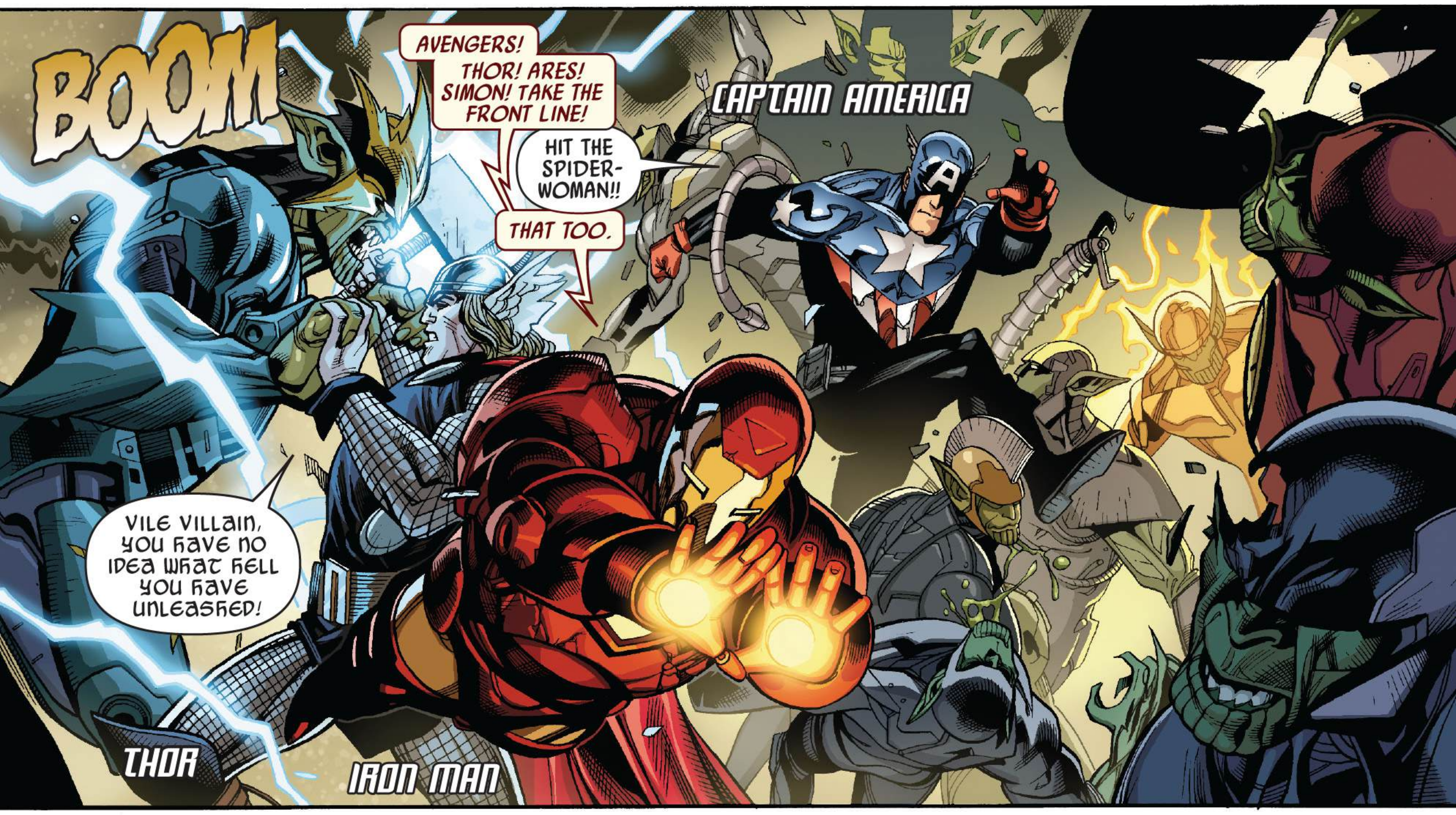
DON'T MEAN TO POOP ON THE PARADE, BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO WE CAN TRUST HERE.
YES, WE DO. I FIGURED THEM OUT.
ONLY MISTAKE THEY MADE IS THEY SHOULD HAVE KILLED *ME* DEAD.
THIS WEAPON WILL REVERT THEM TO THEIR NATURAL FORMS.
AS FAIR A FIGHT AS WE'LL GET.
OF COURSE YOU FIGURED US OUT...
YOU INVENTED EVERYTHING IT TOOK TO BRING YOU TO YOUR KNEES.
NOW WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?
WHO CARES?
EXACTLY.
YOUR HATE IS YOUR OWN. YOUR JUDGMENT IS YOUR OWN.
WE ARE HERE TO SAVE YOU. WE ARE HERE TO CHANGE YOU.
AND WE'RE HERE BECAUSE IN SPITE OF ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE TO OUR EMPIRE...
HE LOVES YOU.
UH...HE WHO?
GOD.
YEAH?
WELL *MY* GOD HAS A *HAMMER*!
RIGHT... AVENGEEERRSSS!

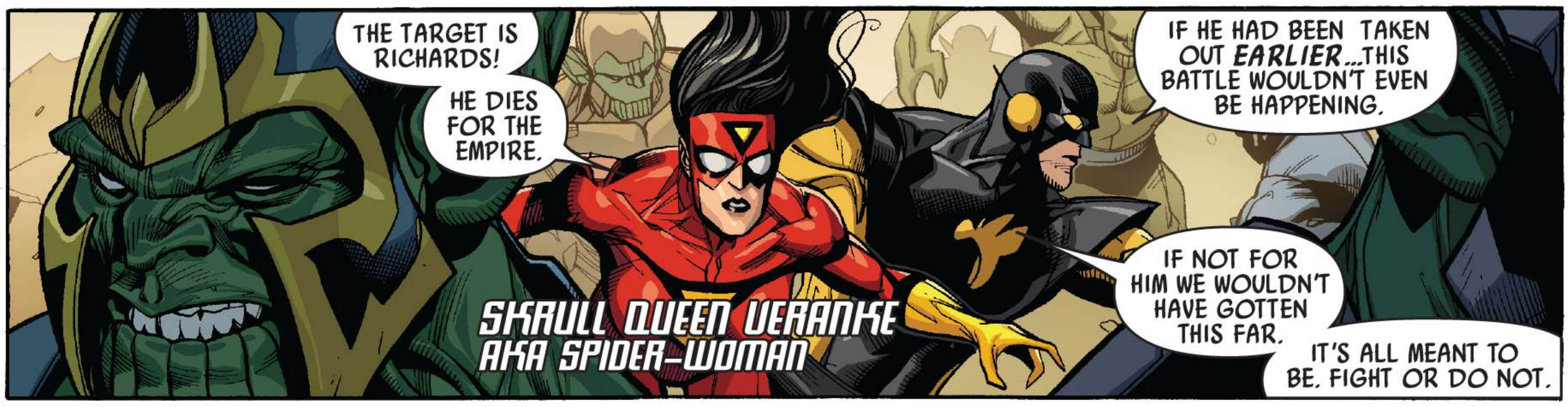
ASSEMBLE!
LEINIL + MORALES 2008

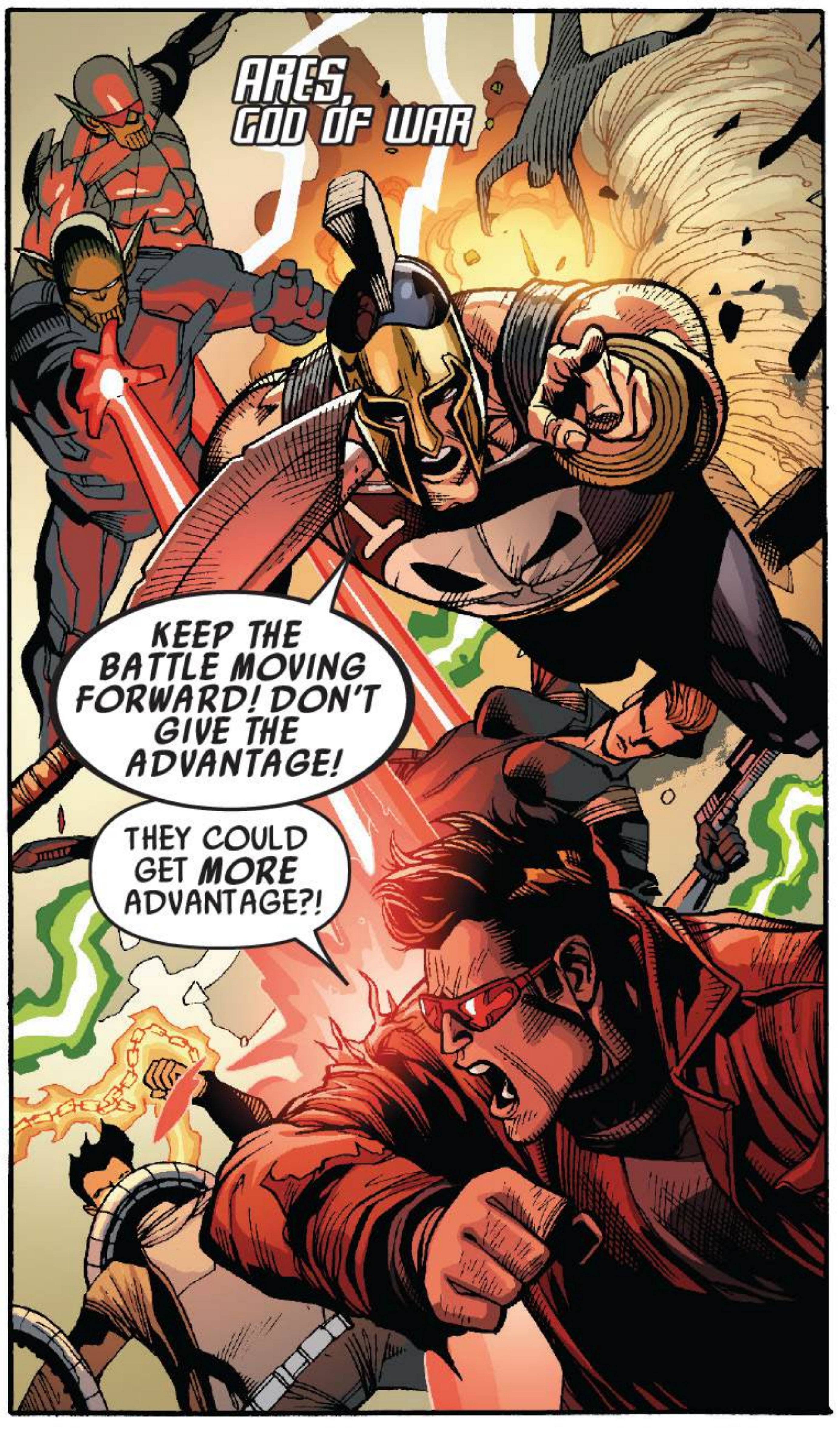


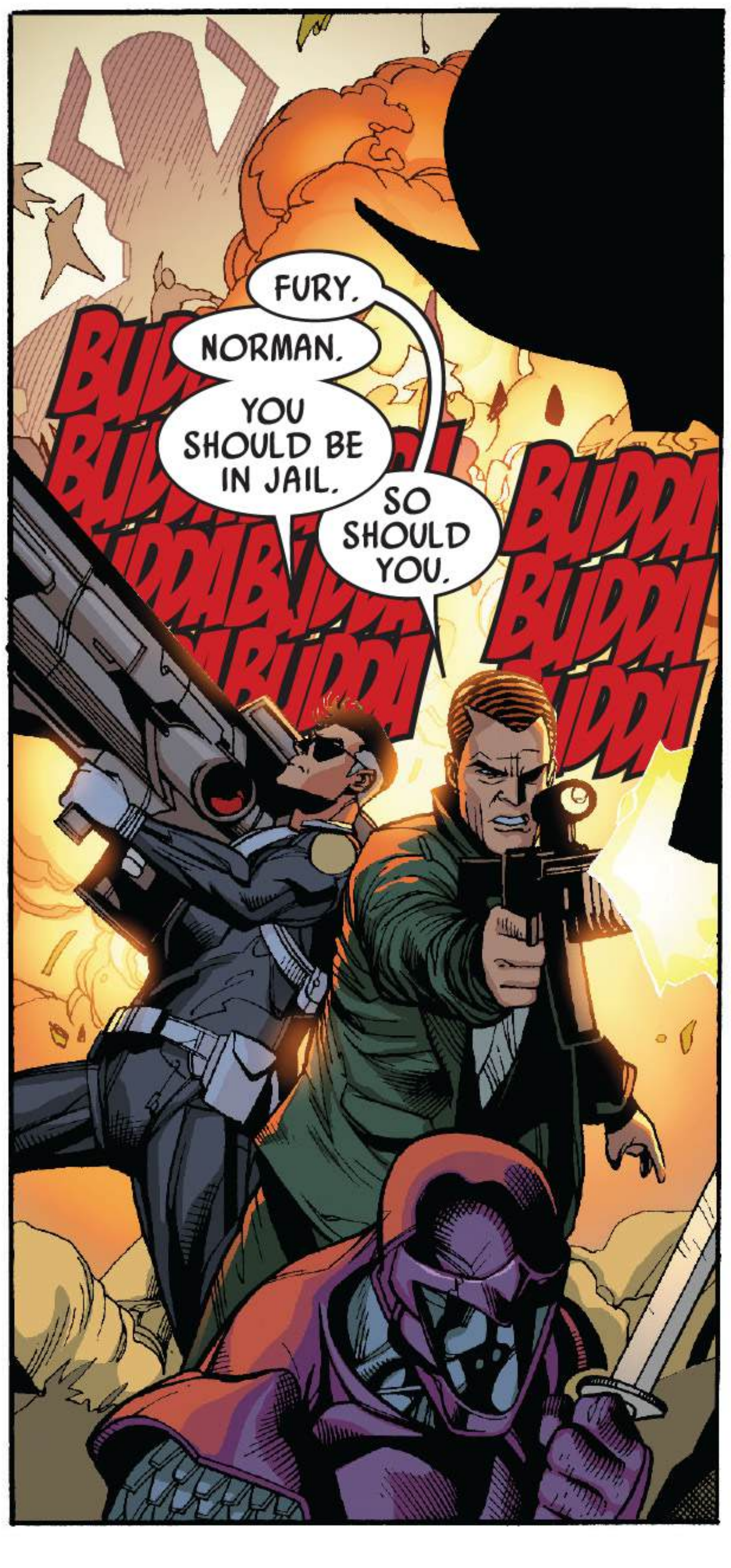
SECRET INVASION #7

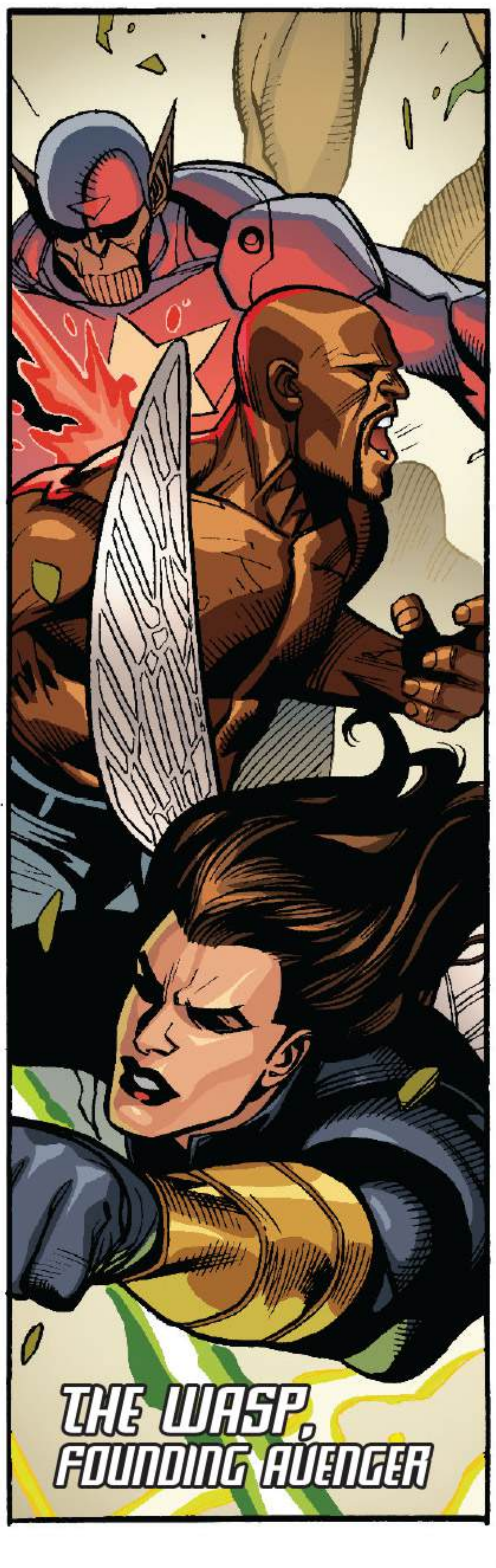
BOOM
GET TO THE QUEEN. GET TO THE JESSICA DREW SKRULL. TAKE OUT THE LEADER!
REED, KEEP THAT SKRULL DETECTOR OF YOURS ON FULL BLAST!
I'M ON IT, BRAINS.
FOR SO MANY REASONS.
"AYE, BROTHER." SEE, THAT'S HOW YOU TALK IN ONE OF THESE. I COULD NEVER SELL THAT.
SHR
THIS BATTLE ENDS WITH VICTORY CLEAR AND TRUE!
AYE, BROTHER!
FSHAAM
CHROOOM
FOR THE EMPIRE.
THE WORDS HAVE BEEN SPOKEN! WE WILL PREVAIL!


BOOM
AVENGERS! THOR! ARES! SIMON! TAKE THE FRONT LINE!
HIT THE SPIDER-WOMAN!!
THAT TOO.
CAPTAIN AMERICA
VILE VILLAIN, YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HELL YOU HAVE UNLEASHED!
THOR
IRON MAN


THE TARGET IS RICHARDS!
HE DIES FOR THE EMPIRE.
IF HE HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT EARLIER... THIS BATTLE WOULDN'T EVEN BE HAPPENING.
SKRULL QUEEN VERANKE AKA SPIDER-WOMAN
IF NOT FOR HIM WE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN THIS FAR.
IT'S ALL MEANT TO BE. FIGHT OR DO NOT.

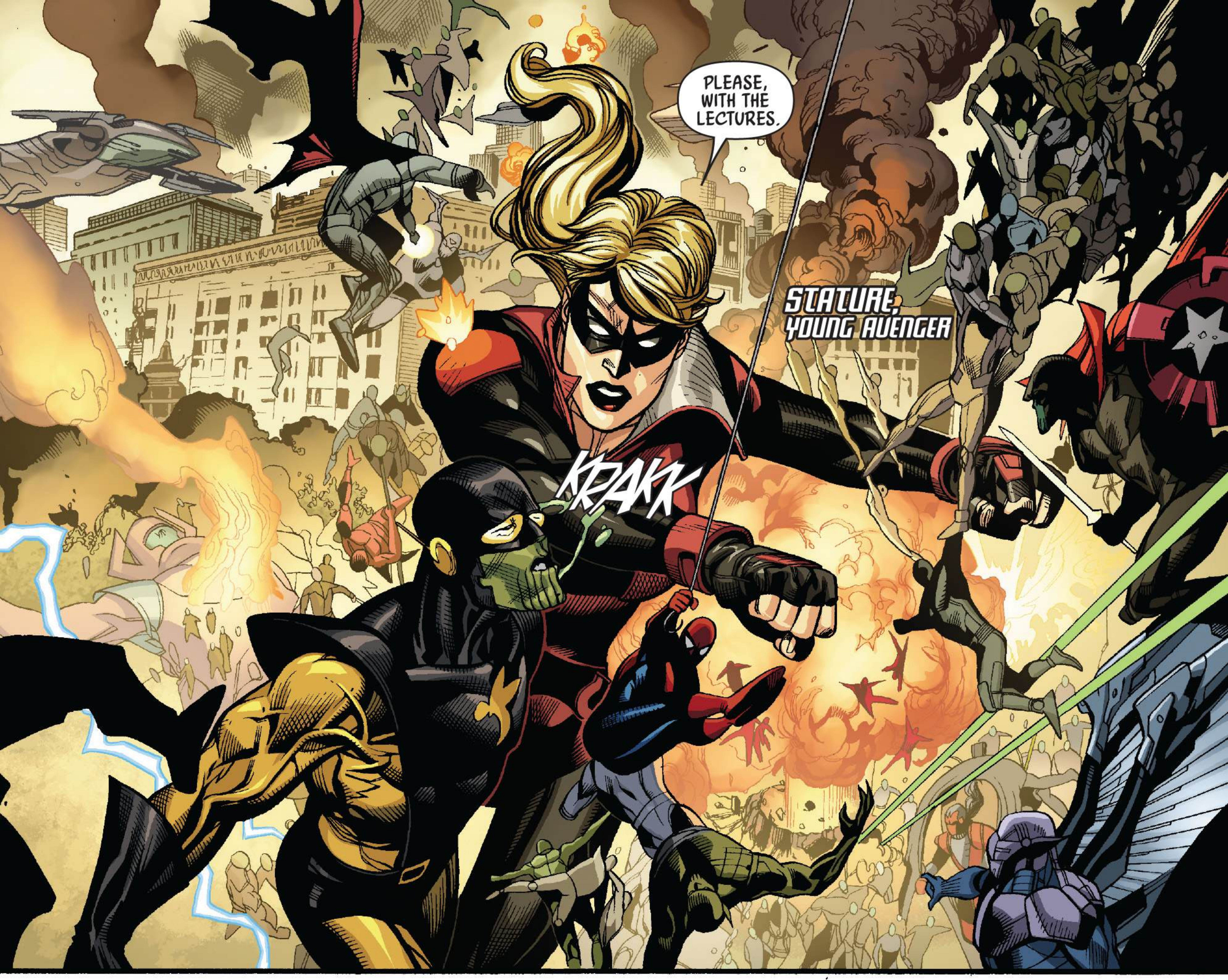

ARES, GOD OF WAR
KEEP THE BATTLE MOVING FORWARD! DON'T GIVE THE ADVANTAGE!
THEY COULD GET MORE ADVANTAGE?!

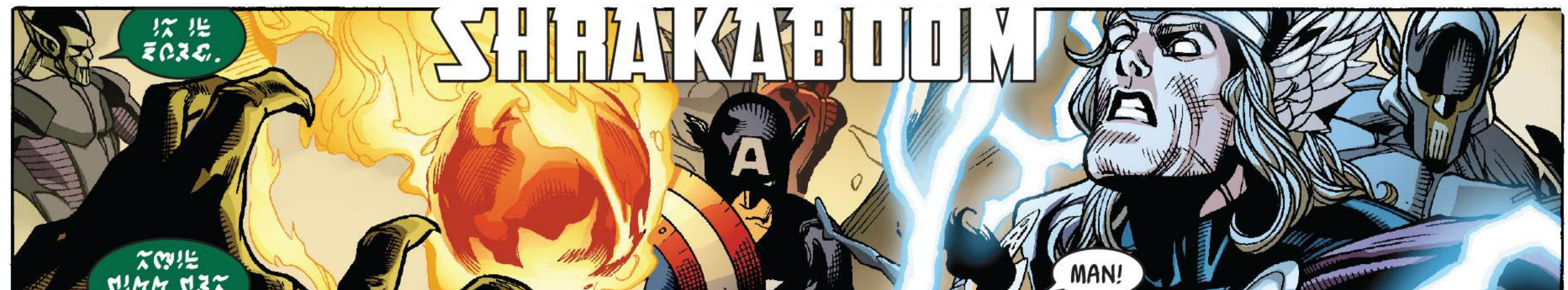

FURY.
NORMAN.
YOU SHOULD BE IN JAIL.
SO SHOULD YOU.
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

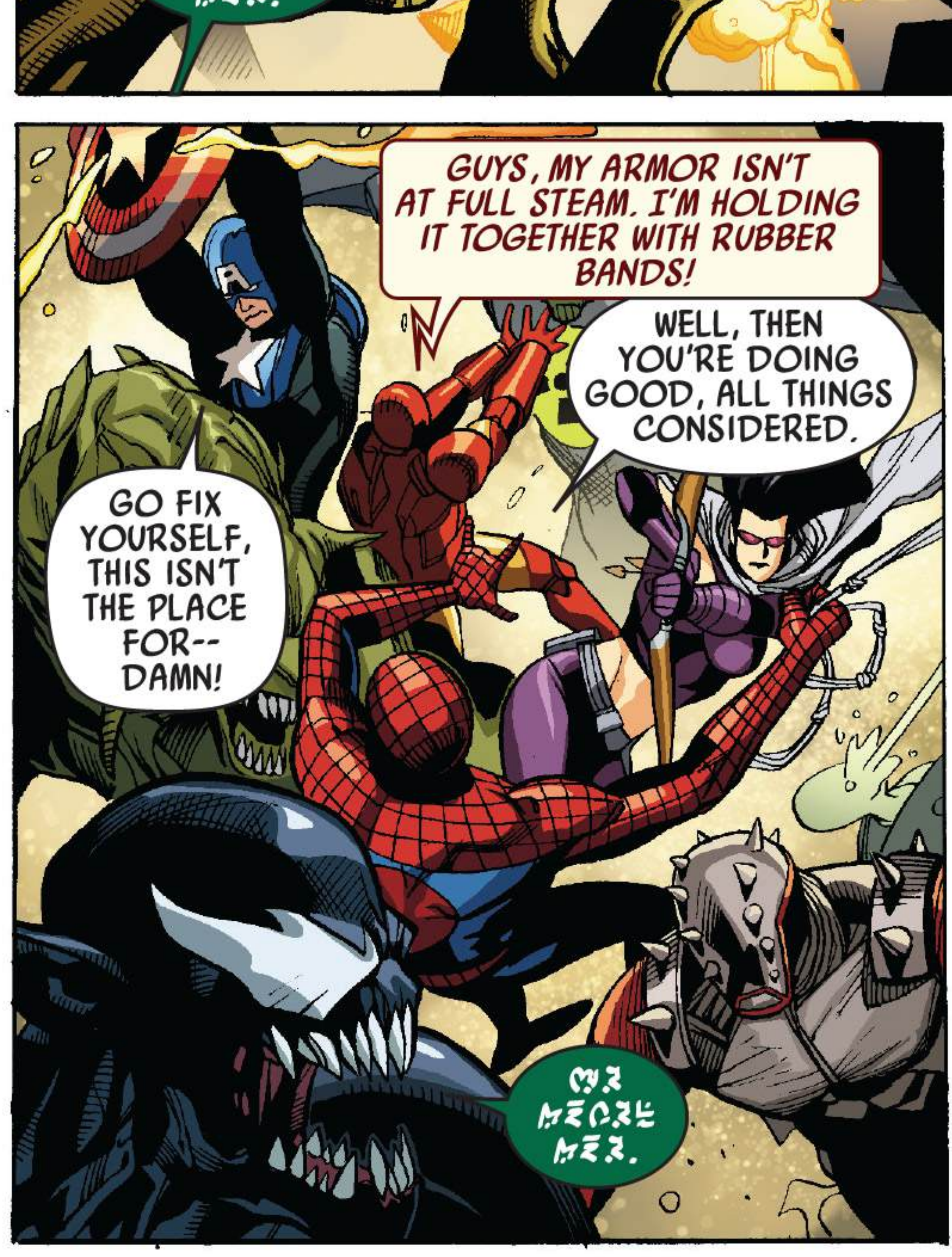

THE WASP, FOUNDING AVENGER

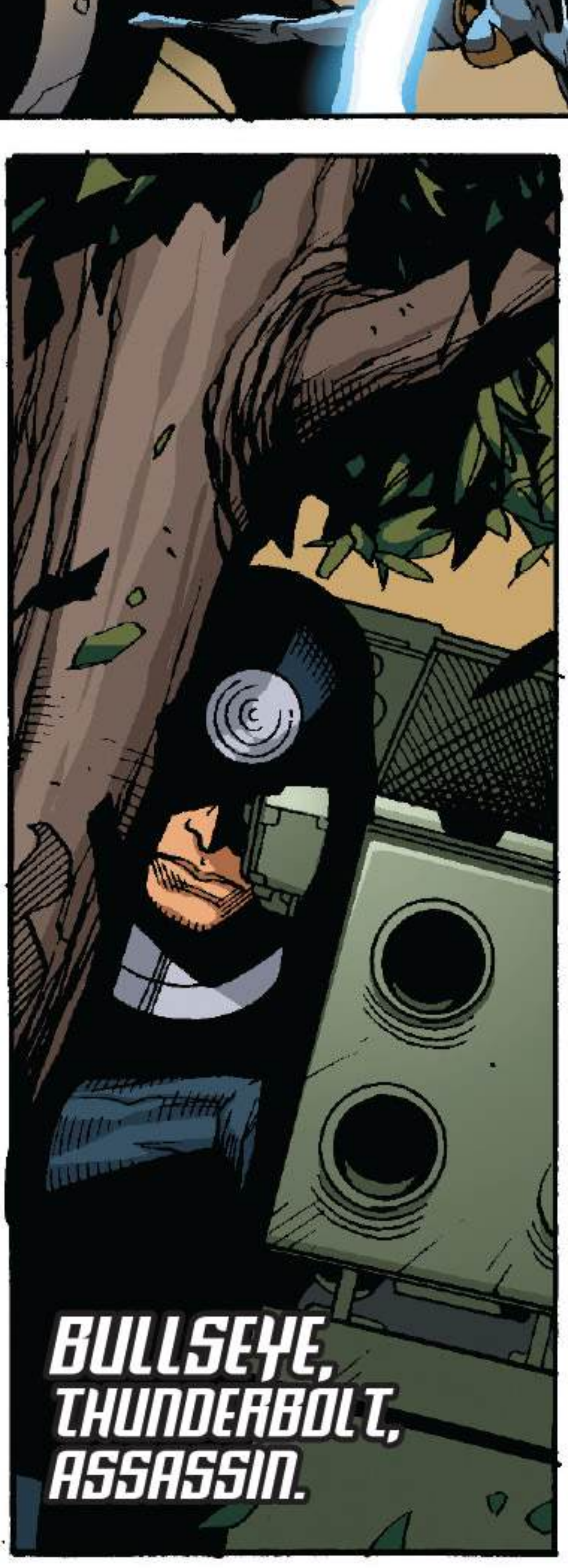
CRITI NOLL,
SKRULL WARRIOR
AKA DOCTOR
HANK PYM
YOU.
AH, @#--

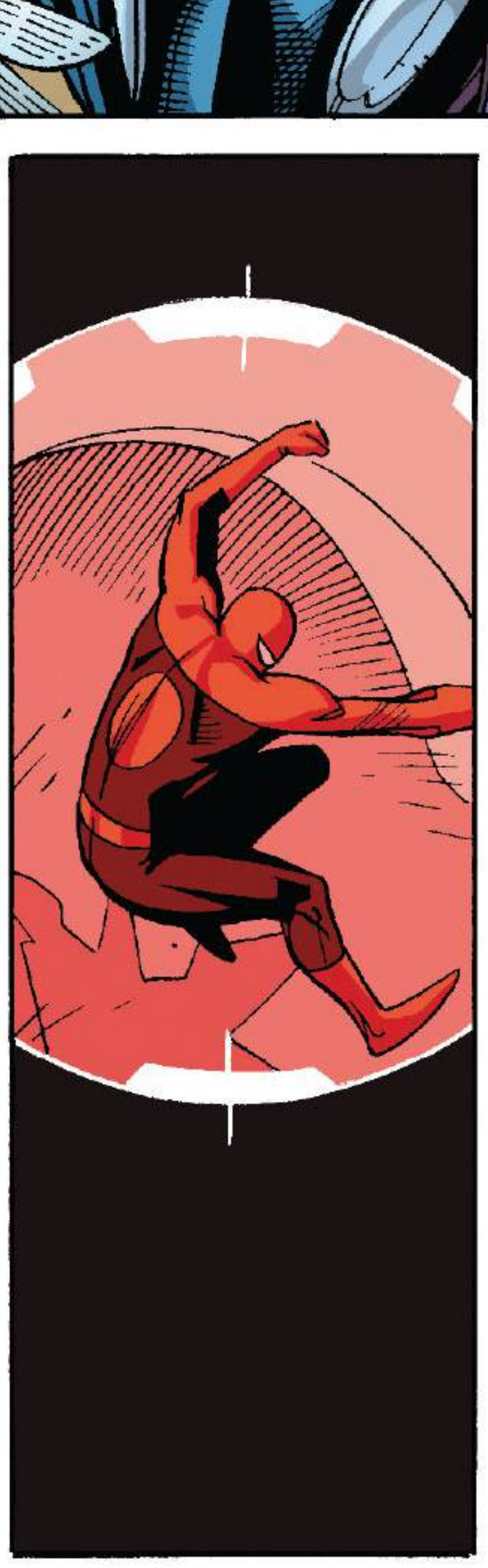
HI, HONEY.
I WAS GOING TO SAVE YOU FOR LAST, JANET, BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO TURN IT INTO A THING...
NOW THEY'RE GIANTING UP...OKAY. GIVE ME A TARGET, I'LL TAKE IT.
BUDDABUDDABUD
WHAT POWER SET DON'T THEY HAVE? GARGAN, GET UP THERE!
UDDABUDDABUDDA
THE PROBLEM WITH YOU, JAN, IS YOU ALWAYS...

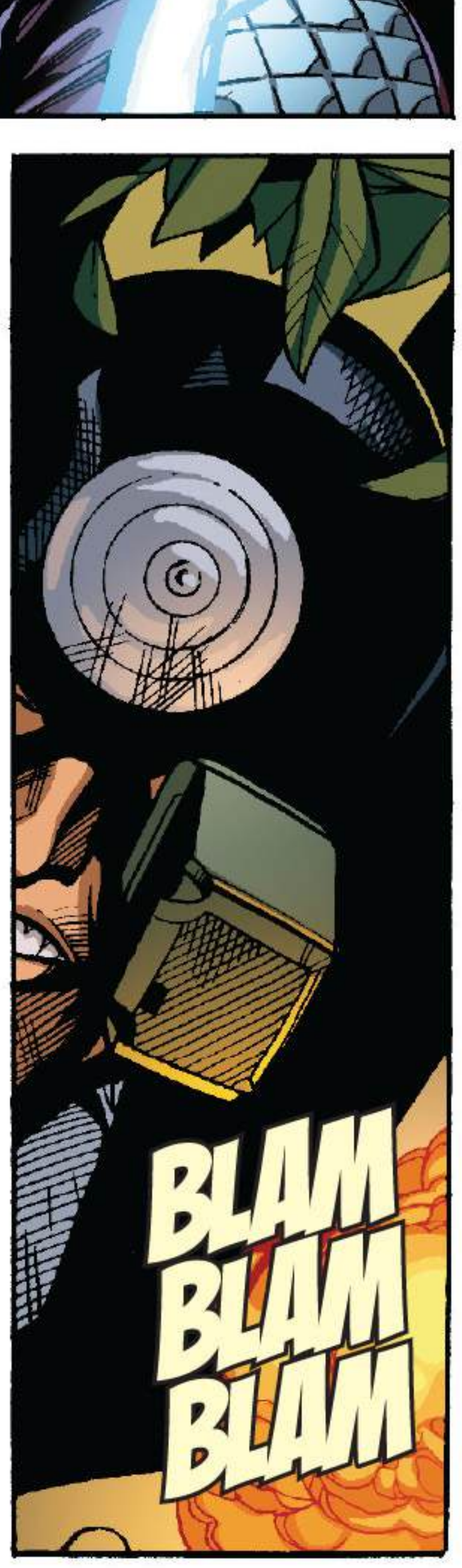

PLEASE, WITH THE LECTURES.
STATURE, YOUNG AVENGER
KRAKK

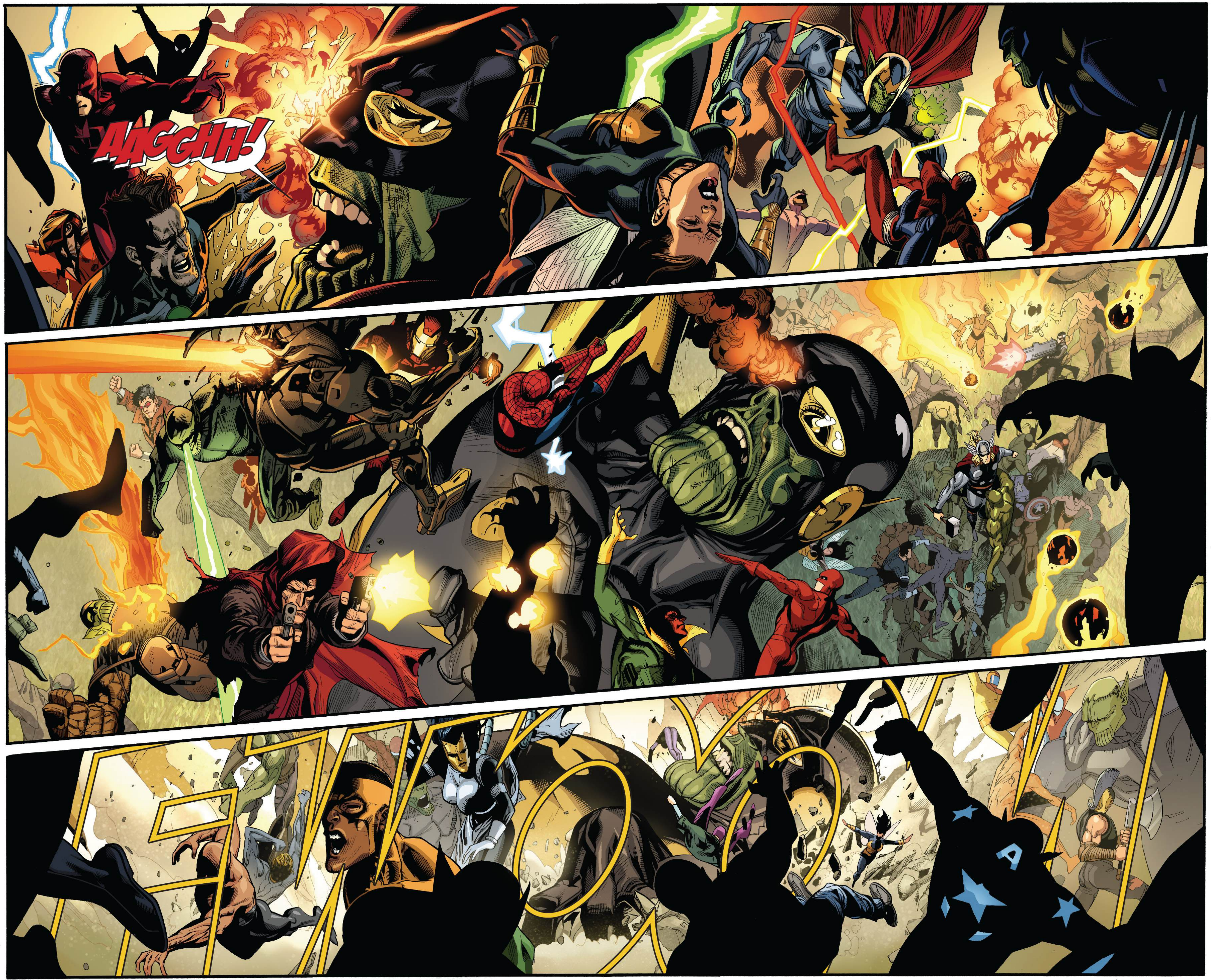

SHRAKABOOM
MAN!


GUYS, MY ARMOR ISN'T AT FULL STEAM. I'M HOLDING IT TOGETHER WITH RUBBER BANDS!
WELL, THEN YOU'RE DOING GOOD, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.
GO FIX YOURSELF, THIS ISN'T THE PLACE FOR-- DAMN!

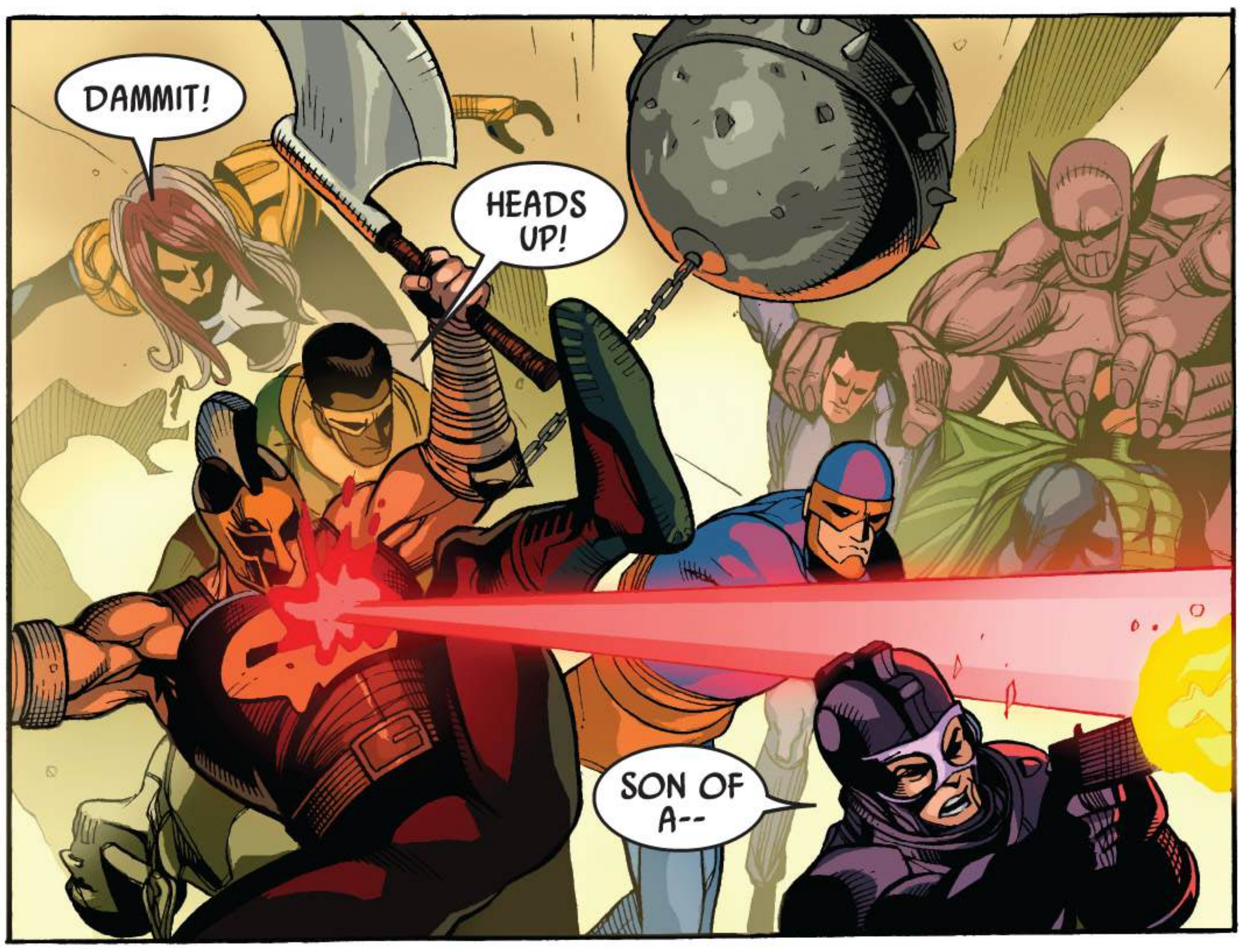

BULLSEYE, THUNDERBOLT, ASSASSIN.

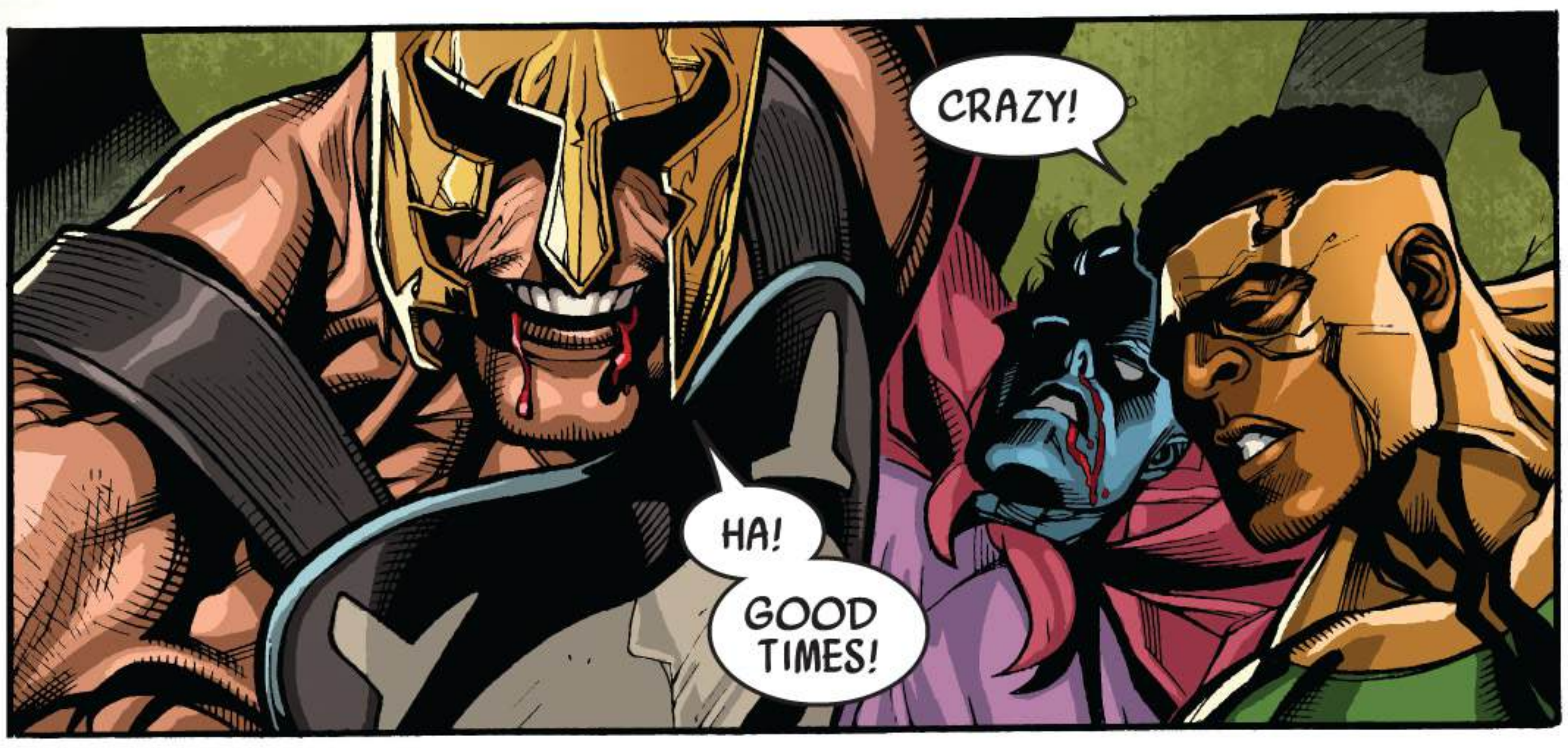


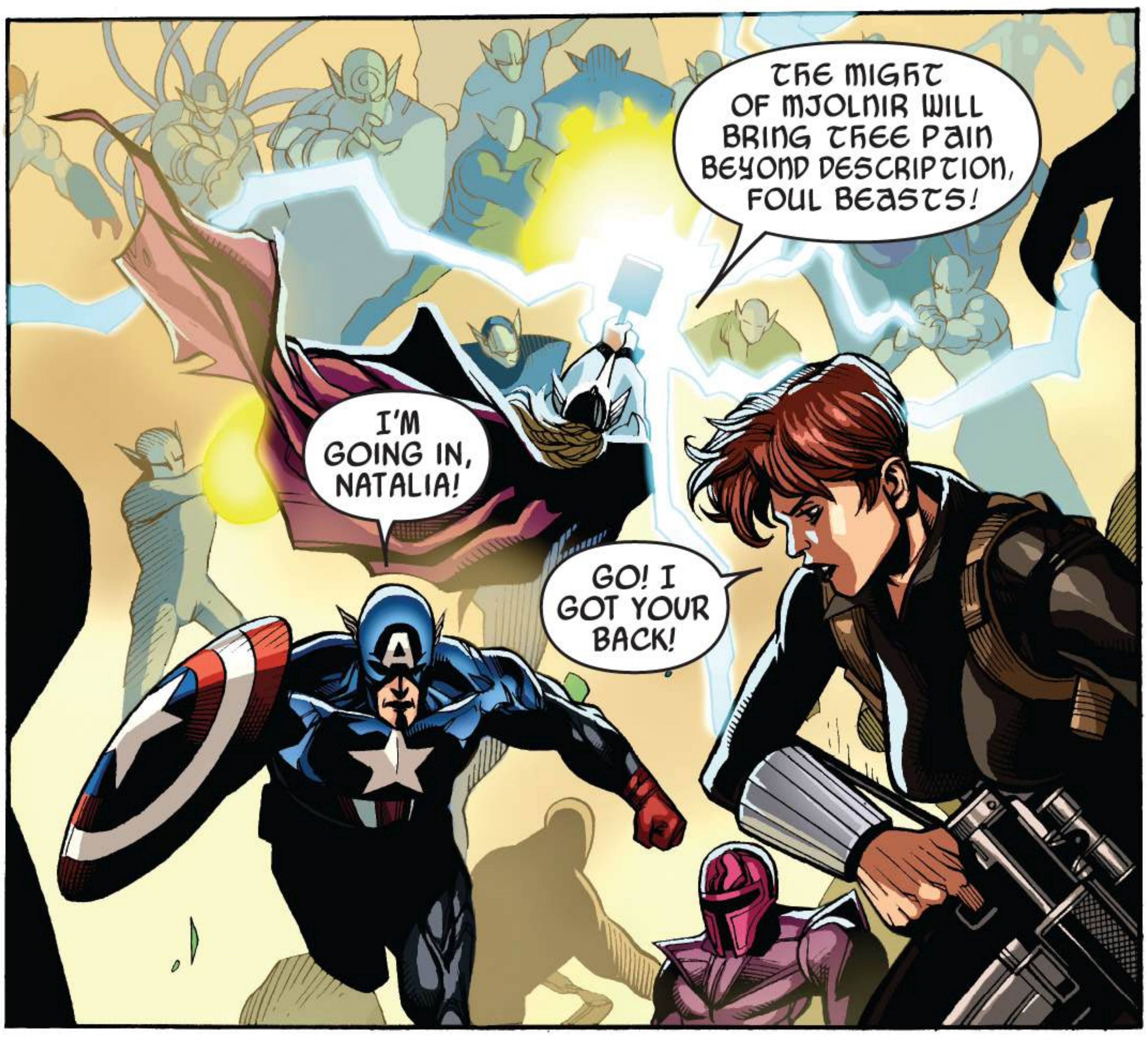

BLAM BLAM BLAM

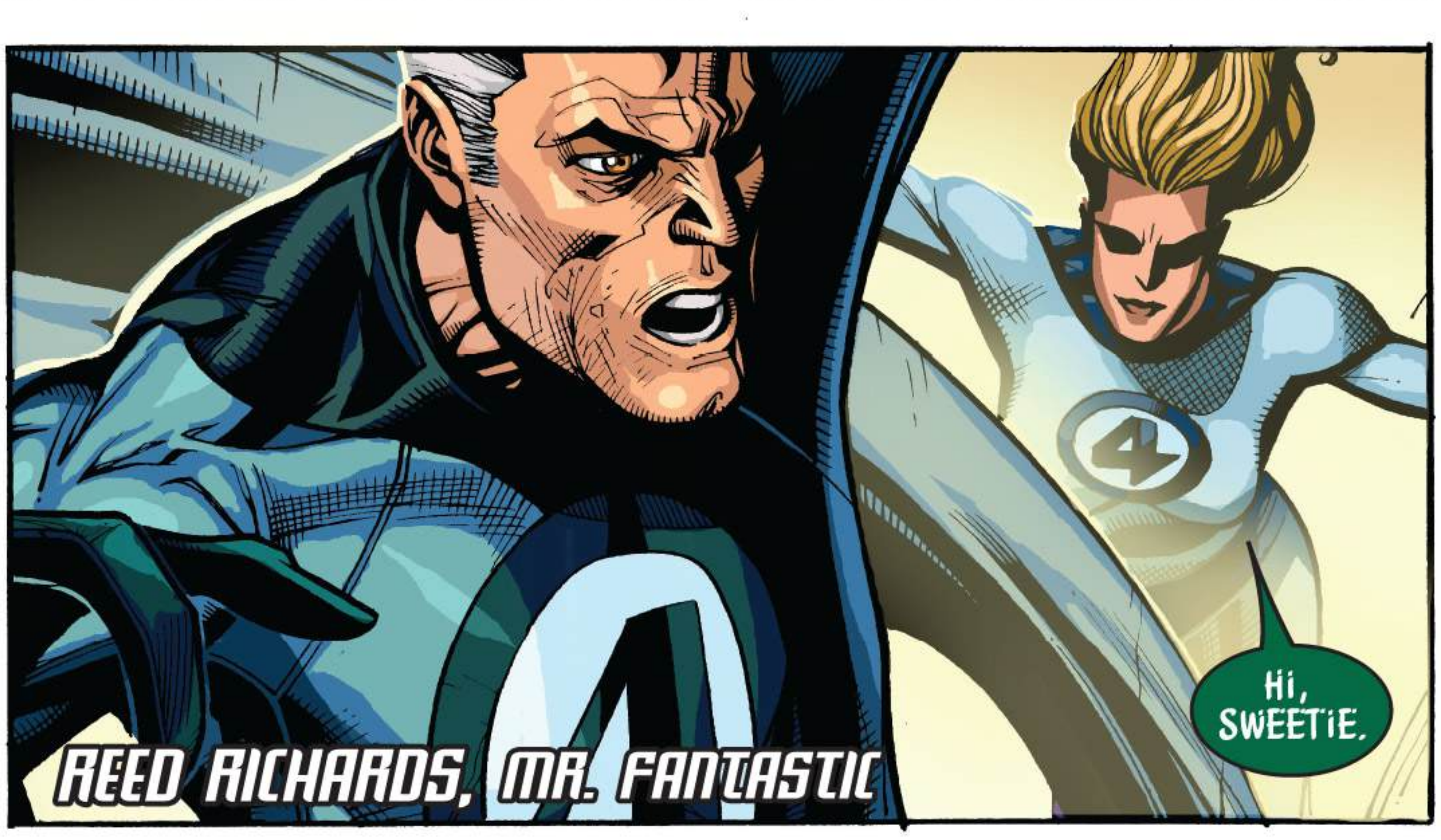

AAGGHH!

I'M SORRY.
I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN. MY ARMOR'S SHOT, I'M USELESS.
DO WHAT THOU MUST!
DAMN!


DAMMIT!
HEADS UP!
SON OF A--


CRAZY!
HA! GOOD TIMES!


THE MIGHT OF MJOLNIR WILL BRING THEE PAIN BEYOND DESCRIPTION, FOUL BEASTS!
I'M GOING IN, NATALIA!
GO! I GOT YOUR BACK!


HI, SWEETIE.
REED RICHARDS, MR. FANTASTIC

Hi SWEETiE!
Hi SWEETiE!
Hi SWEETiE!
I CAN SEE THROUGH YOU.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH YOU SKRULLS, EVEN WHEN IT DOESN'T WORK, ALL YOU HAVE ARE TRICKS.
COMMANDOS!
SAVE THE RUBBER MAN!
ON IT, BOSS.
HI, DOCTOR RICHARDS. OH BOY, I'M A HUGE FAN, MY NAME IS HENRY--
NOT THE TIME--
--BIG GUY. YOU'LL--
--SEE HIM AT THE--
--AFTER PARTY.
BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM
OKAY, BOYS... TIME TO TAKE THIS @#$% TO THE NEXT LEVEL!
RIGHT.
THE HOOD, CRIME KINGPIN
WOLVERINE, X-MAN/AVENGER

AAARRGG!!
ZZATTT
ZZATTT
HAARRGGH!
ZZATTT
AAGGH!
CHUNK
ZZATTT
RRRGG!
HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT, THIS AIN'T SO BAD, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.
HOW'S THAT EXACTLY?
THESE BIG EARTH SHAKERS, I'VE BEEN AROUND THEM. YOU KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE TO WORRY, IS WHEN UATU SHOWS UP.
WHO?
THE *WATCHER*!
BIG ALIEN BALD GUY IN CHARGE OF WATCHING WHEN THE TRULY INSANE STUFF HAPPENS.
HE'S NOT HERE SO THAT MUST MEAN WE'RE GOING TO BE OKAY AND--
OH *COME* ON...

LUKE CAGE
WELL, THAT'S YOUR OPINION.
SKROOM
BEG TO DIFFER.
CRUNCH
S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMAND, THIS IS TONY STARK.
CAN ANYONE READ THIS FREQUENCY? OVER.
HELICARRIER, CAN YOU READ ME? OVER?
DAMN IT.
JARVIS, CAN YOU--
FTANG
AGH!
FSHHAAAMMMM
S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMAND, THIS IS TONY STARK.
THERE ARE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE MADNESS WE'RE SEEING UNFOLD BEFORE US.

AVENGERS TOWER
THE POWERED COMMUNITIES HAVE JOINED FORCES AGAINST THE ARMIES OF THIS SKRULL EMPIRE.
WE'RE TRYING TO GET YOU WHAT INFORMATION WE HAVE AS IT COMES IN. TONY STARK, DIRECTOR OF--
CNN
@#$%!
JARVIS
JESSICA JONES
@#$%!
MA'AM?
JARVIS, I NEED TO GO HELP.
THE BATTLE, MA'AM?
YES.
WILL YOU, PLEASE, WILL YOU LOOK AFTER DANIELLE?
YES.
YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M ASKING?
YOU UNDERSTAND WE MAY NOT COME BACK.
I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY.
BABY, MOMMY HAS TO GO DO THE RIGHT THING FOR ONCE IN HER LIFE.
I'M GOING TO GO HELP YOUR DADDY.

Geegee.
YEAH.
Geegee.
BOOM
IS THAT--?
INCOMING!

BLAM
MY NAME IS NOH-VARR!
I AM A WARRIOR OF THE KREE.
IN THE NAME OF CAPTAIN MAR-VELL!
IN THE NAME OF THE KREE EMPIRE!
I TELL YOU INVADING HORDES THAT THIS *FIGHT IS OVER!*

YOU HEAR THAT?!
THAT'S OUR CUE, GUYS AND DOLLS!
HIT 'EM HIGH, HIT 'EM LOW!
THUNDERBOLTS, TAKE THE FRONT LINE!
HAVE AT THEE!
SHAM SHAM SHAM
SON OF A--
HI, BABY.
WELL, IF THIS AIN'T THE LAST PLACE I EVER EXPECTED TO SEE YOU.
I AM AN ENIGMA WRAPPED IN A RIDDLE.
WHAM
PROBABLY WHY I MARRIED YOU.
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE--
HEY, WHERE'S THE BABY?
BABY COULDN'T BE SAFER. OH, AND YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THE SKRULL THING.
SHE ADMITTED I WAS RIGHT.
ALL OF A SUDDEN IT'S THE BEST DAY A'MY LIFE.
CLANG
SLAM
HAWKEYE!
AAGGHH!
SHE'S BARELY BREATHING.
GET HER OUT OF HERE.
I'LL TAKE THESE.

SHPUNK
FUNK
SHPUNK
FUNK
BOOM
SKABOOM
FABOOM
BOOM
RRA!
DAMN!

CHUCK
NO...
FUMP
HUURRAGGHH!
AAGGH!
BOOMBOOMBOOM
THEN THIS IS HOW IT MUST BE.
HE LOVES US.
HE LOVES US ALL.
TEN
AGH!

I--I NEED A LITTLE--
FABOOM
AAAGGHHH!
ANNIVERSARY PRESENT.
ANNIVERSARY OF WHAT?
IT'S JUST A PRESENT.
IT'S SOMETHING I WAS WORKING ON BEFORE YOU LEFT ME IN ENGLAND.
I WAS GOING TO SURPRISE YOU WITH IT.
OH, NO...
JANET?!
WHAT IS IT?
A NEW GROWTH FORMULA.
VAST IMPROVEMENT OVER THE ORIGINAL ONE THAT MADE YOU THE WASP AND ME ANT-MAN, THEN GIANT-MAN AND SO ON...
NOW IF YOU NEED TO BE THE WASP, YOU CAN SHRINK DOWN.
BUT IF THE SITUATION CALLS FOR A GIANT WOMAN, YOU CAN GO RIGHT FROM WASP TO GIANT WOMAN...
...LIKE THAT.
I FIGURED WITH THE NEW TEAM, THE NEW WORLD, THE INITIATIVE, AND WHATEVER ELSE...
...IT MIGHT BE NICE TO HAVE THE OPTION.
UH, THANKS...
OH, NO...

SEE, CHILD? THAT IS WHY YOUR PEOPLE HAVE TO SUBMIT.
WE CAME HERE WILLING TO DIE SO THAT GOD'S WILL COULD BE DONE.
THEY JUST DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

"THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY THIS ENDS.
"THEY DIE. WE DIE. IT DOESN'T MATTER.
"AS LONG AS THE WORDS OF OUR PROPHETS COME TRUE."

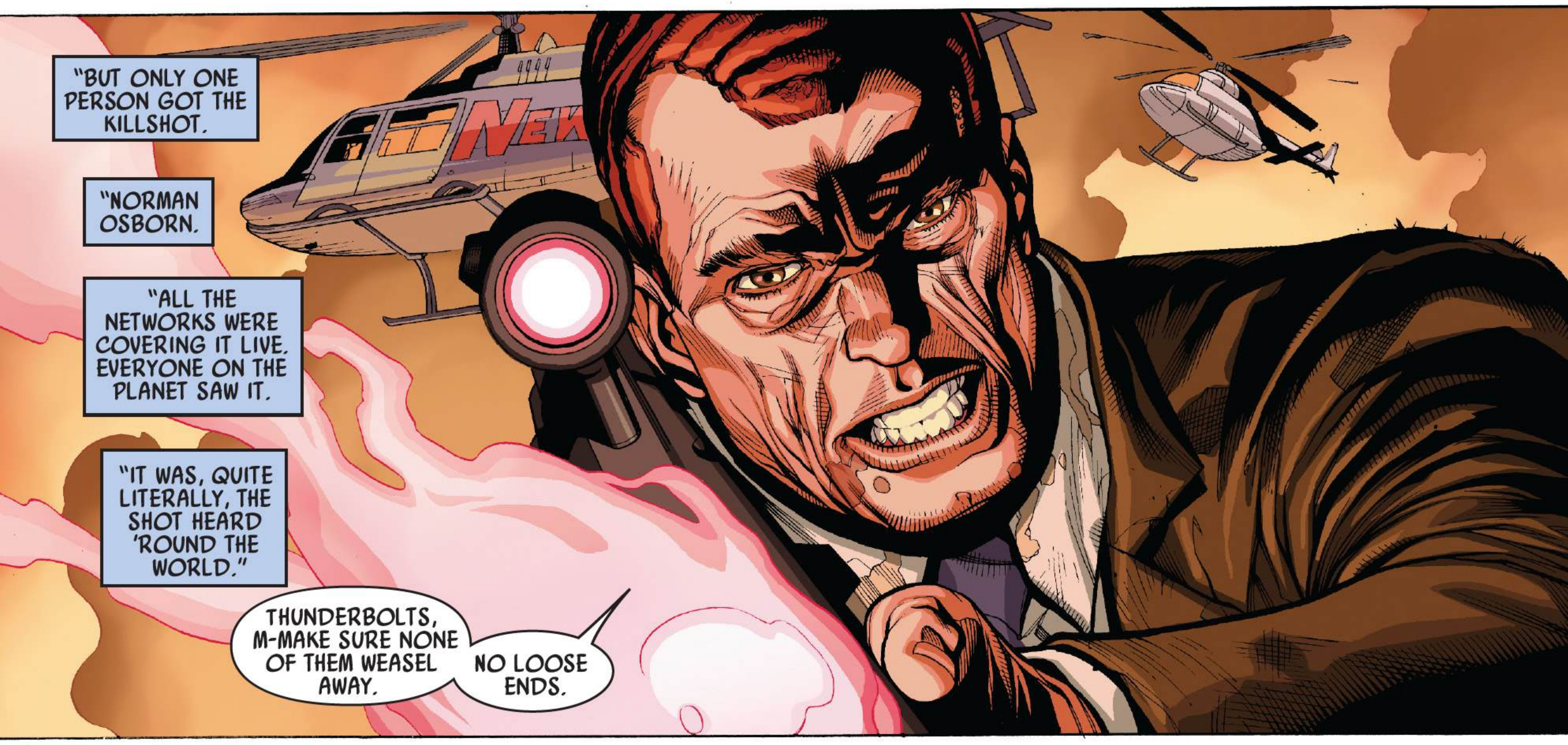
SECRET INVASION #8

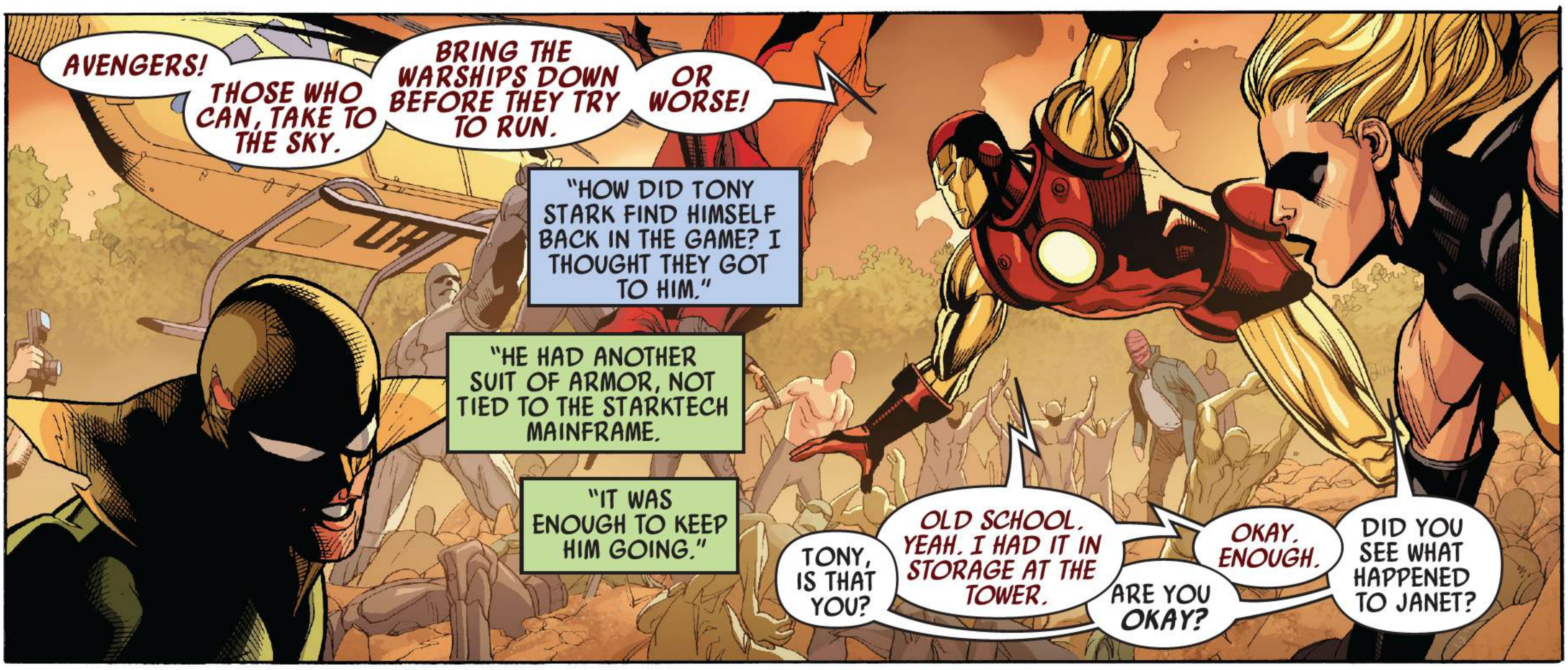
"THE BATTLE IN NEW YORK WAS FIERCE."
"THE BATTLE *WAS* FIERCE, YES."
"I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE."
"THE SKRULL EMPIRE HAD SO MANY TRICKS UP THEIR SLEEVE. SO MANY PLANS AND CONTINGENCY PLANS...THEY'D MORE THAN HALFWAY WON BEFORE IT HAD EVEN STARTED.
"YOU CAN'T HELP BUT ADMIRE THEM."
"ADMIRE?"
"THE PLANS. THE EXECUTION."
"I UNDERSTAND. WHAT--WHAT EXACTLY *HAPPENED* WITH JANET VAN DYNE?"
"THE WASP. YES.
"THAT--THAT IS WHAT I MEAN.
"IT WOULD SEEM THEY HAD SET HER UP AS A LAST RESORT BIOLOGICAL WEAPON.
"THEY INFECTED THE GROWTH FORMULA SHE USES TO TURN HERSELF INTO THE WASP OR GIANT-WOMAN...THEY MAY HAVE DONE THIS MONTHS BEFORE.
"IT SEEMS THEY HAD HER READY TO GO IN CASE THINGS GOT DESPERATE."
"AND THEY DID."
"YES. THEY DID."
"BUT WHAT HAPPENED?"
NEWS
VT3

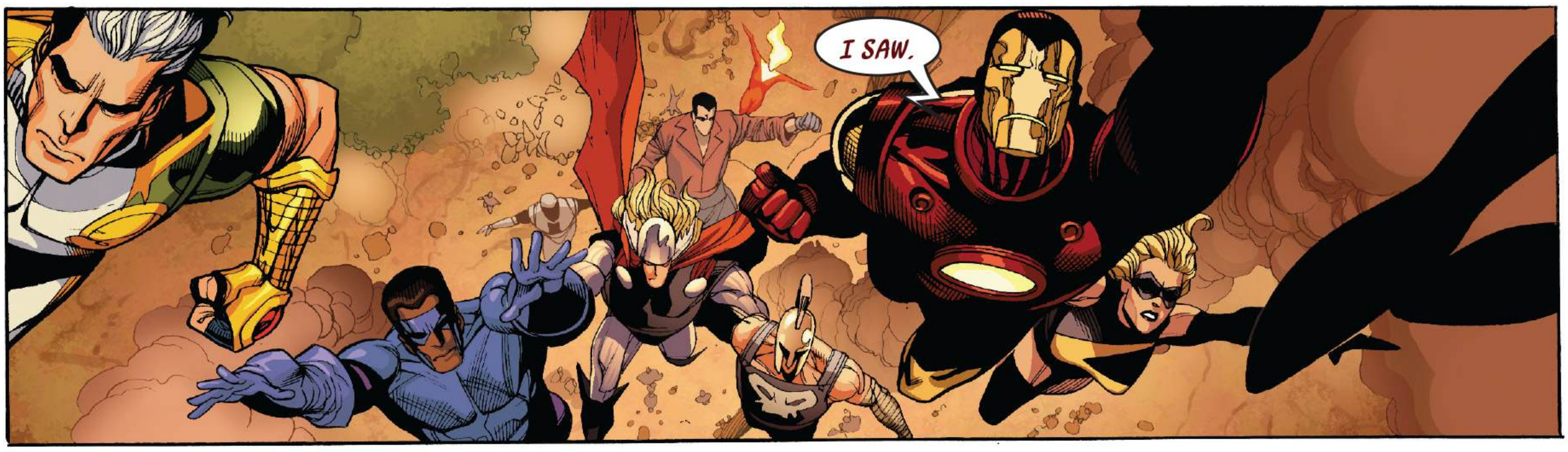
"THOR HAPPENED.
AAARRGGHHH!
TV5
"YOU PROBABLY SAW THE FOOTAGE. HE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE.
"EVERYONE WHO WASN'T PUKING UP THEIR LUNGS TRIED TO GET TO HER. TO HELP HER.
"IT SEEMED THAT THE WASP HERSELF WAS TRYING TO GET AWAY.
"IN HER DYING BREATH SHE WAS TRYING TO SAVE LIVES AND TAKE OUT ENEMIES.
"BUT SHE WAS KILLING US.
"HUMAN AND SKRULL ALIKE.
"THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP IT.
I WILL AVENGE THEE, FAIR JANET.

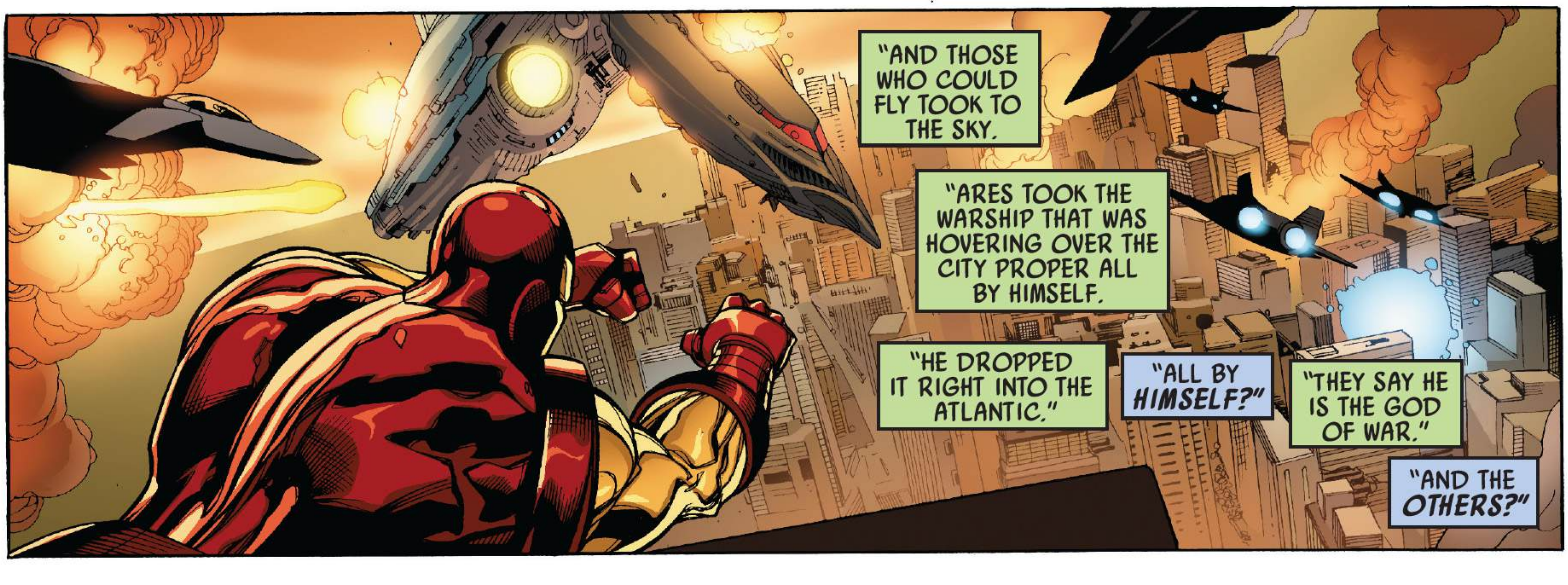
NEWS
3
"DOESN'T MAKE HER DEATH ANY LESS TRAGIC.
"AN AVENGER. A FOUNDING MEMBER.
"AND THEY GOT HER.
NO...
NO, NO...
"THING IS--I DON'T KNOW IF THE SKRULLS, FOR ALL THEIR PLANNING, TRULY UNDERSTAND US.
"AS HUMANS.
"BECAUSE I THINK IF THEY *DID*, THEY'D KNOW THAT WHETHER OR NOT A STUNT LIKE THAT WOULD HAVE WORKED...
"WHOEVER SURVIVED...
"WHOEVER WAS LEFT...

"...WOULD BE *INSANELY* TICKED OFF."
SNIKT
HE LOVES ME...
HE LOVES ME...
HE LOVES ME...
HE LOVES ME...
FZAAK!

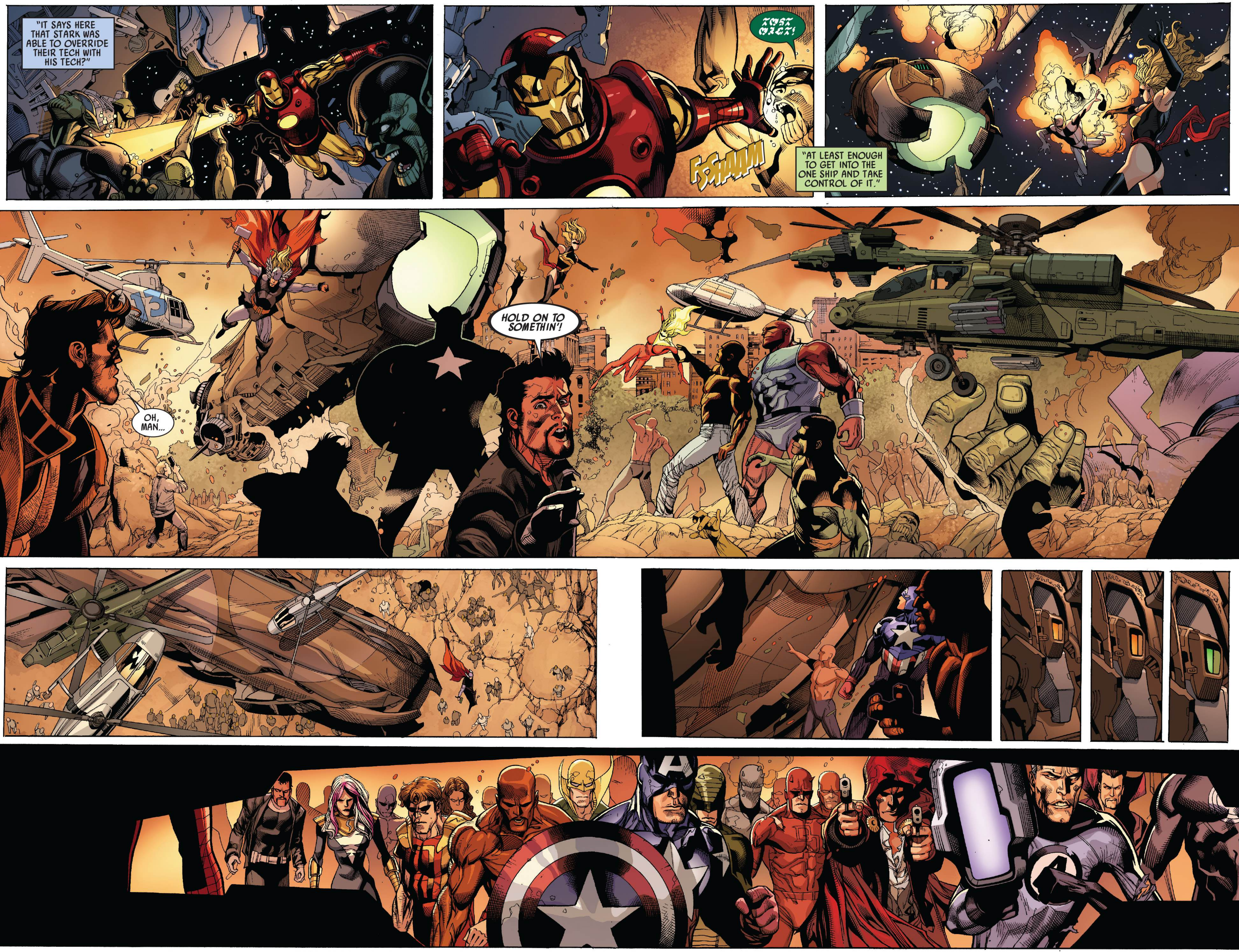

"BUT ONLY ONE PERSON GOT THE KILLSHOT.
"NORMAN OSBORN.
"ALL THE NETWORKS WERE COVERING IT LIVE. EVERYONE ON THE PLANET SAW IT.
"IT WAS, QUITE LITERALLY, THE SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD."
THUNDERBOLTS, M-MAKE SURE NONE OF THEM WEASEL AWAY.
NO LOOSE ENDS.


AVENGERS!
THOSE WHO CAN, TAKE TO THE SKY.
BRING THE WARSHIPS DOWN BEFORE THEY TRY TO RUN.
OR WORSE!
"HOW DID TONY STARK FIND HIMSELF BACK IN THE GAME? I THOUGHT THEY GOT TO HIM."
"HE HAD ANOTHER SUIT OF ARMOR, NOT TIED TO THE STARKTECH MAINFRAME.
"IT WAS ENOUGH TO KEEP HIM GOING."
TONY, IS THAT YOU?
OLD SCHOOL. YEAH. I HAD IT IN STORAGE AT THE TOWER.
ARE YOU *OKAY?*
OKAY. ENOUGH.
DID YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO JANET?


I SAW.


"AND THOSE WHO COULD FLY TOOK TO THE SKY.
"ARES TOOK THE WARSHIP THAT WAS HOVERING OVER THE CITY PROPER ALL BY HIMSELF.
"HE DROPPED IT RIGHT INTO THE ATLANTIC."
"ALL BY *HIMSELF?*"
"THEY SAY HE IS THE GOD OF WAR."
"AND THE *OTHERS?*"

"ACCORDING TO STARK'S INITIAL TESTIMONY AND REPORTS...
"...WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE ARMADA WAS *ATTEMPTING* TO RETREAT.
"BUT WITHOUT A PROPER LEADERSHIP CHAIN THEY WERE CAUGHT SPINNING THEIR WHEELS WHEN THOR WHIPPED OUT THE HAMMER."
COME ON, GUYS... KEEP THE CASUALTIES LIGHT.
I WANT PRISONERS.
"WHATEVER STARK HAD LEFT...
"...IT WAS ENOUGH FOR HIM TO SCAN THE SKRULL WARSHIPS FOR OTHER DOOMSDAY DEVICES.
"BUT WHAT HE FOUND..."
OH MY GOD...


"IT SAYS HERE THAT STARK WAS ABLE TO OVERRIDE THEIR TECH WITH HIS TECH?"
FSHAAAM
"AT LEAST ENOUGH TO GET INTO THE ONE SHIP AND TAKE CONTROL OF IT."
13
HOLD ON TO SOMETHIN'!
OH, MAN...

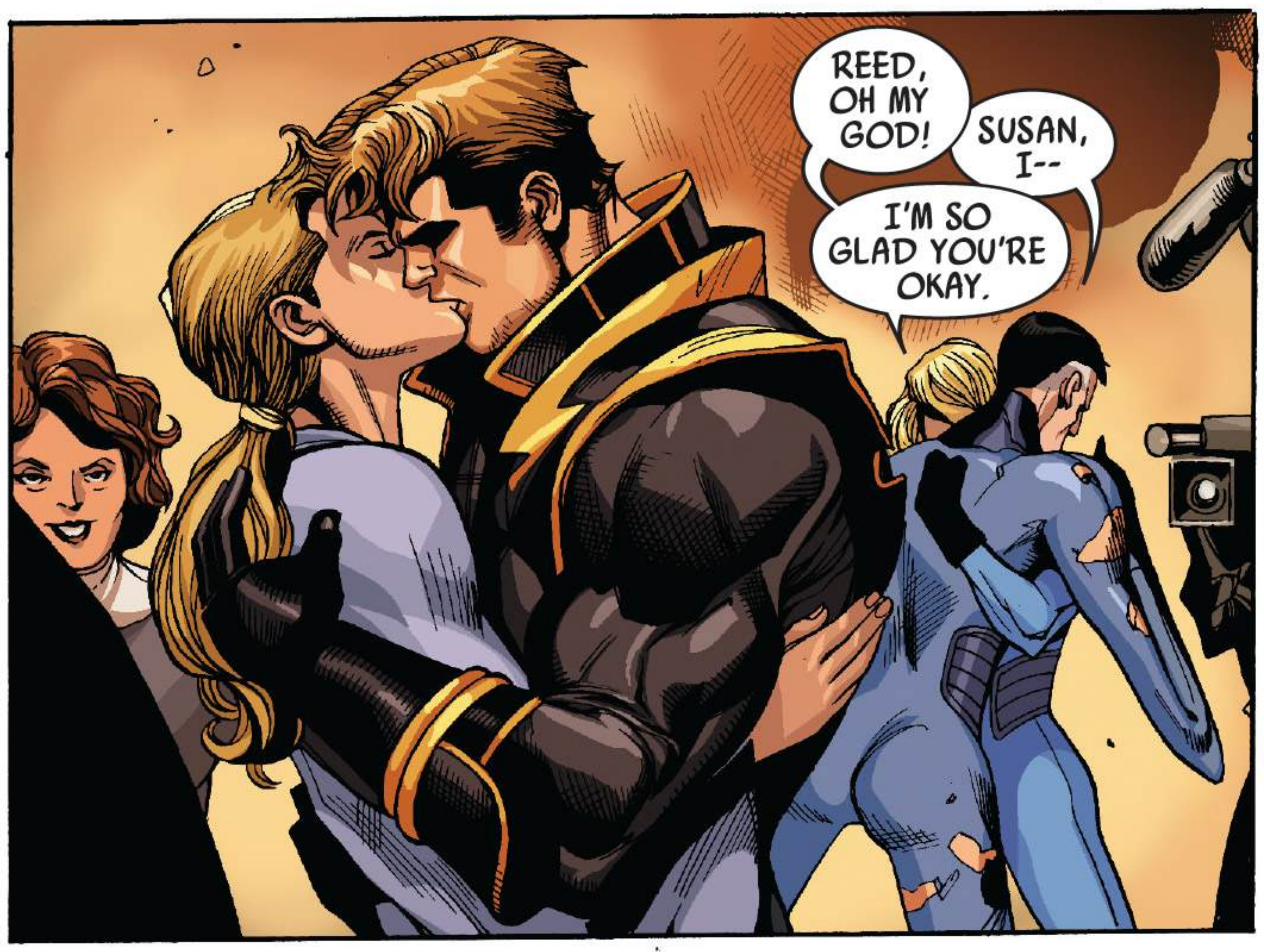
HEY... WHAT'S UP?
OH, THANK GOD!
CAROL-- MAN, ARE YOU A SIGHT.
ARE-- ARE YOU OKAY?
NO!
I'M--I'M TIRED AND I'M SO OUT OF SORTS IT'S NOT EVEN A *LITTLE* FUNNY. AND I--
WHAT?
WHAT DID I DO?
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
WHY IS EVERYONE LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
NO ONE--NO ONE KNOWS WHAT TO THINK.
WHY?
"THERE WERE SIGHTINGS OF DOZENS OF KNOWN CRIMINALS--"
"YES, SIR."
"WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?"
GUYS, IF I MAY, I THINK THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO TAKE OUR LEAVE.
YEAH, NO @#$%.

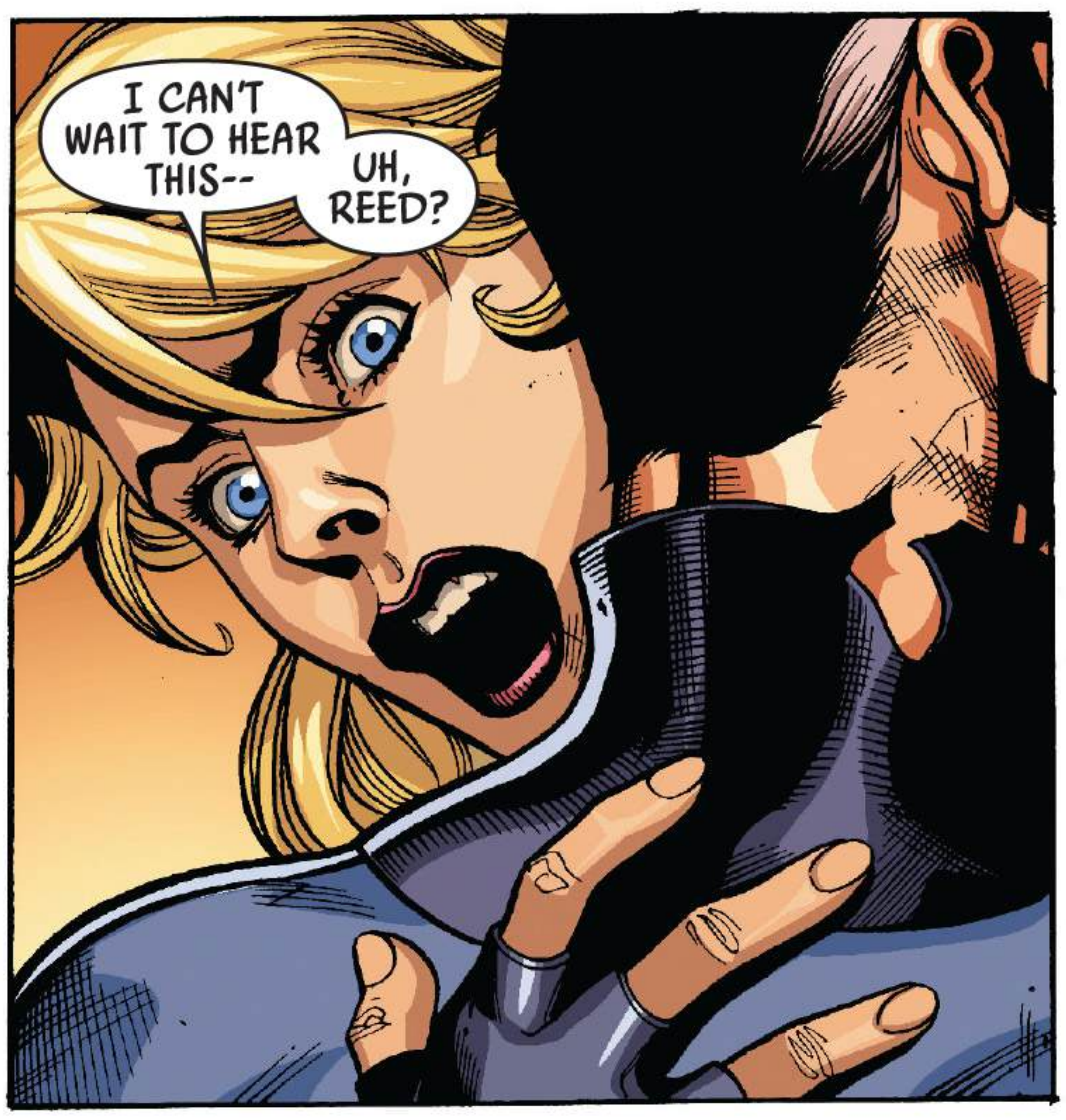
HANK PYM!
TELL ME THAT'S YOU, TONY.
IT'S ME.
OH, MAN, DO I EVEN WANT TO KNOW WHAT YEAR IT IS?
HOW-- HOW DO YOU FEEL?
HOW DO I FEEL? I FEEL LIKE I SLEPT FOR TWO HUNDRED--
THOR! THOR, YOU'RE BACK! YOU'RE OKAY!
AYE. OLD FRIEND!
WHERE'S JANET?
WHERE'S JANET?
OH, NO.
WHAT'S WRONG, JESSICA?
JARVIS?
SIR?
WELL, THAT ANSWERS A LOT OF QUESTIONS.
I SEEM TO HAVE FOUND MYSELF IN A RATHER AWKWARD--
STEADY, MY FRIEND.
I'M SO SORRY, SIR. I FEEL LIKE I HAVE LET YOU--
OH GOD!
NO!

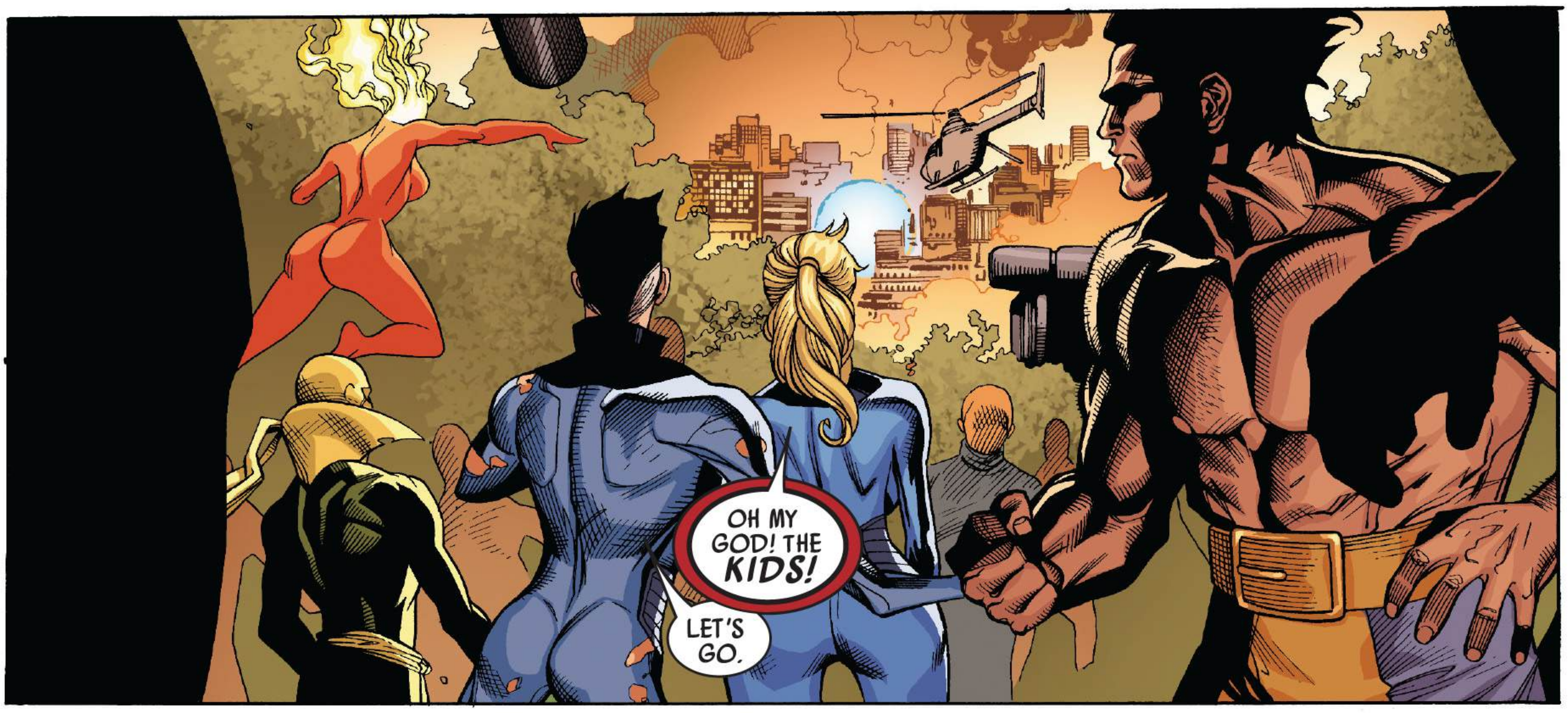
JESSICA!
WE'RE SEEING LIVE IMAGES OF THE BATTLEFIELD.
IRON MAN HAS LANDED A SHIP IN CENTRAL PARK. THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE MILLING ABOUT. WE'RE NOT SURE EXACTLY--
LIVE
NUH!
SKRASH
NO, NO, NO... OH, GOD...
WHAT THE HELL, JESS?
THE BABY, LUKE.
THEY TOOK OUR BABY!
WHAT?
JARVIS. THE JARVIS THAT WAS HERE.
IT WAS ONE OF THEM! AND-- AND I GAVE HIM THE BABY!
AND NOW--AND NOW...
THEY TOOK THE BABY!

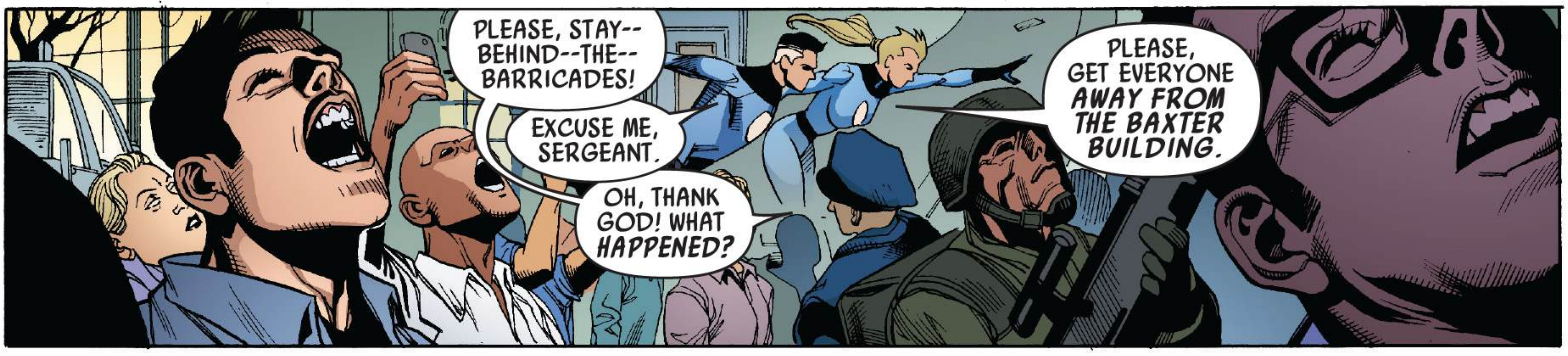
"I HAVE A QUESTION. WHY DO YOU THINK THE SKRULLS KEPT THEIR HUMAN PRISONERS ALIVE?
"IF THEY HAD SUCCESSFULLY SWITCHED THEM OUT, WHY DIDN'T THEY, I DON'T KNOW, DUMP THE BODIES?"
"WELL, SIR, I THOUGHT IT WAS IN CASE THEY NEEDED BARGAINING CHIPS.
"THAT'S WHAT *I* WOULD HAVE DONE.
"BUT ACCORDING TO THE SKRULL PRISONER INTERROGATION, THE PROCESS THESE SKRULLS USED TO COMPLETELY INFILTRATE OUR RANKS WAS A GENETIC PROCESS, AND THEY NEEDED THE ORIGINAL SOURCES AVAILABLE."
"CREEPY."
"YES."
NICK! NICK?!
THANK GOD, A FRIENDLY FACE.
"EITHER WAY, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, IT WAS NICE TO BE ABLE TO LOOK EVERYONE IN THE EYE AND KNOW...
"EVERYONE IS WHO THEY SAY THEY ARE."
NICK!
THE HELL WAS *THAT?*
MAYBE HE DIDN'T SEE US.
HE SAW US.
HE--HE JUST TURNED HIS BACK ON US?

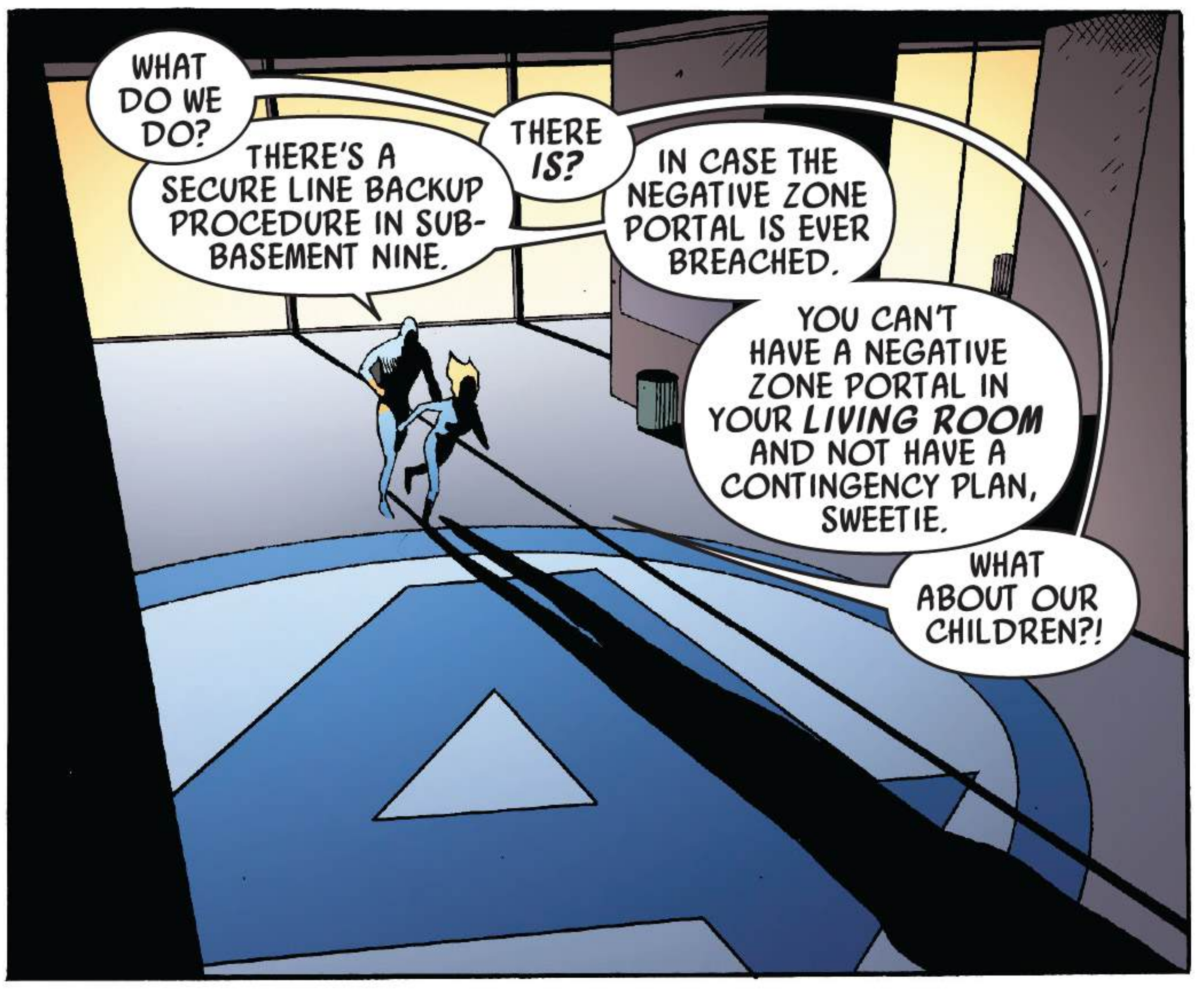
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
BOBBIE MORSE. MOCKINGBIRD.
YOU'RE A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT TOO?
YEAH.
ME, TOO.
GOOD TO MEET YOU.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S **HAPPENED** HERE? DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE NOW?
I KNOW WHAT **YOU** KNOW.
DO YOU KNOW HOW WE GOT HERE?
GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT IN A--
I'M A LITTLE FREAKED OUT.
YEAH, THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT--
--CRAZY NUTS.
CLINT?
IS IT YOU?
OH MY GOD, YOU LOOK **TERRIBLE**.
YOU LOOK GREAT.
WHAT ARE YOU **WEARING?**

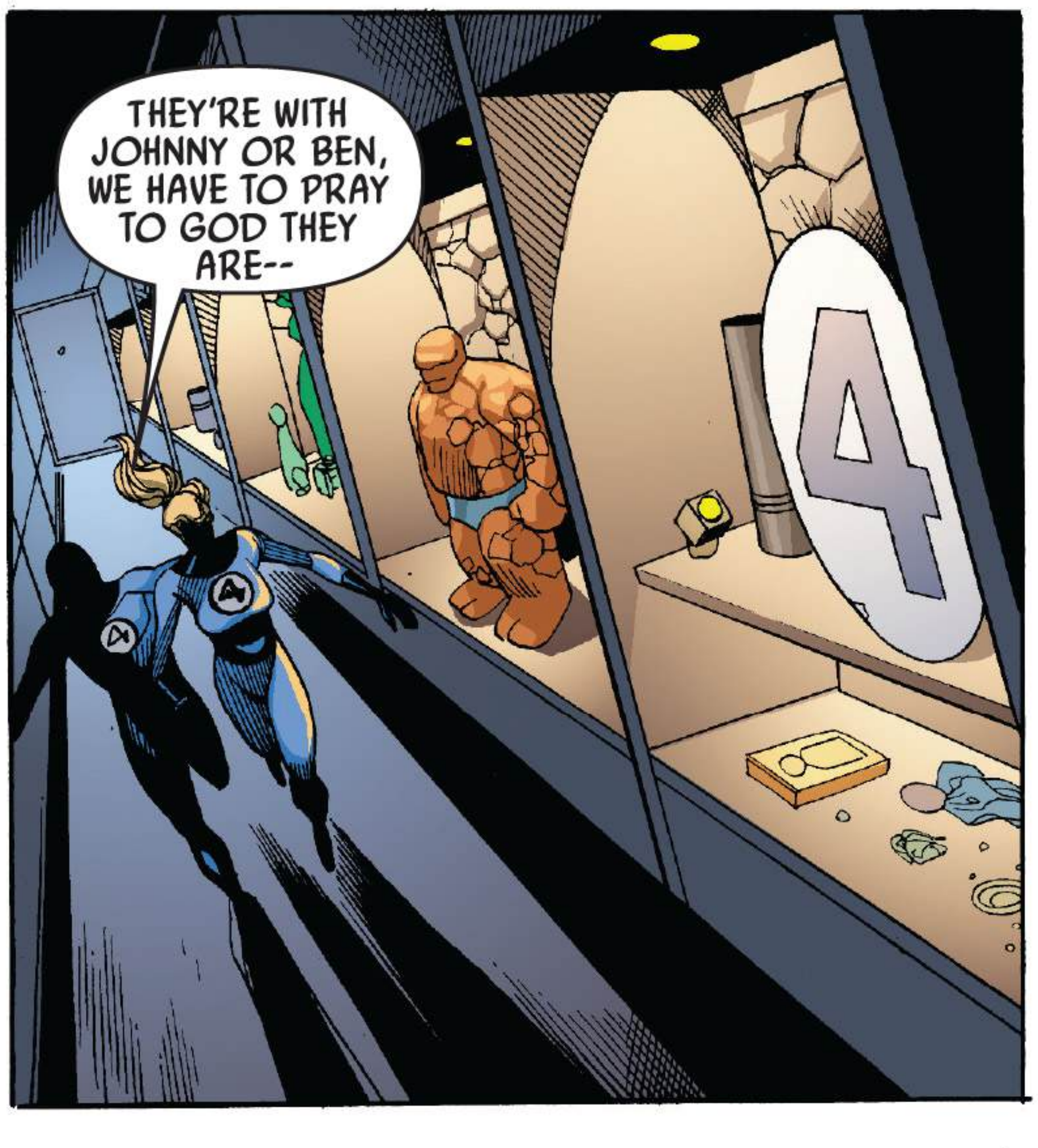

REED, OH MY GOD!
SUSAN, I--
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY.


I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR THIS--
UH, REED?


OH MY GOD! THE *KIDS!*
LET'S GO.


PLEASE, STAY--BEHIND--THE--BARRICADES!
EXCUSE ME, SERGEANT.
OH, THANK GOD! WHAT *HAPPENED?*
PLEASE, GET EVERYONE *AWAY FROM THE BAXTER BUILDING.*


WHAT DO WE DO?
THERE'S A SECURE LINE BACKUP PROCEDURE IN SUB-BASEMENT NINE.
THERE *IS?*
IN CASE THE NEGATIVE ZONE PORTAL IS EVER BREACHED.
YOU CAN'T HAVE A NEGATIVE ZONE PORTAL IN YOUR *LIVING ROOM* AND NOT HAVE A CONTINGENCY PLAN, SWEETIE.
WHAT ABOUT OUR CHILDREN?!

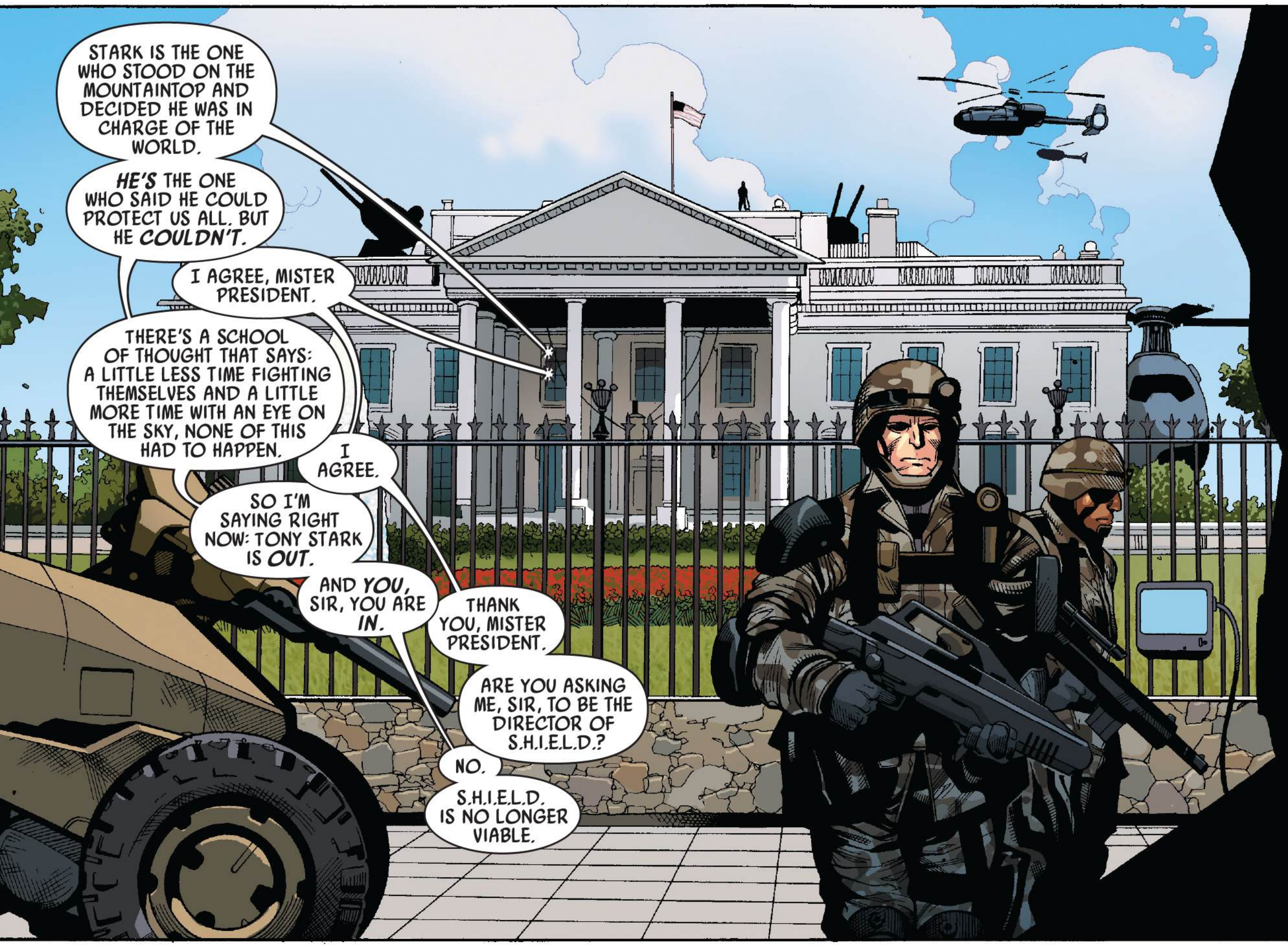

THEY'RE WITH JOHNNY OR BEN, WE HAVE TO PRAY TO GOD THEY ARE--
4

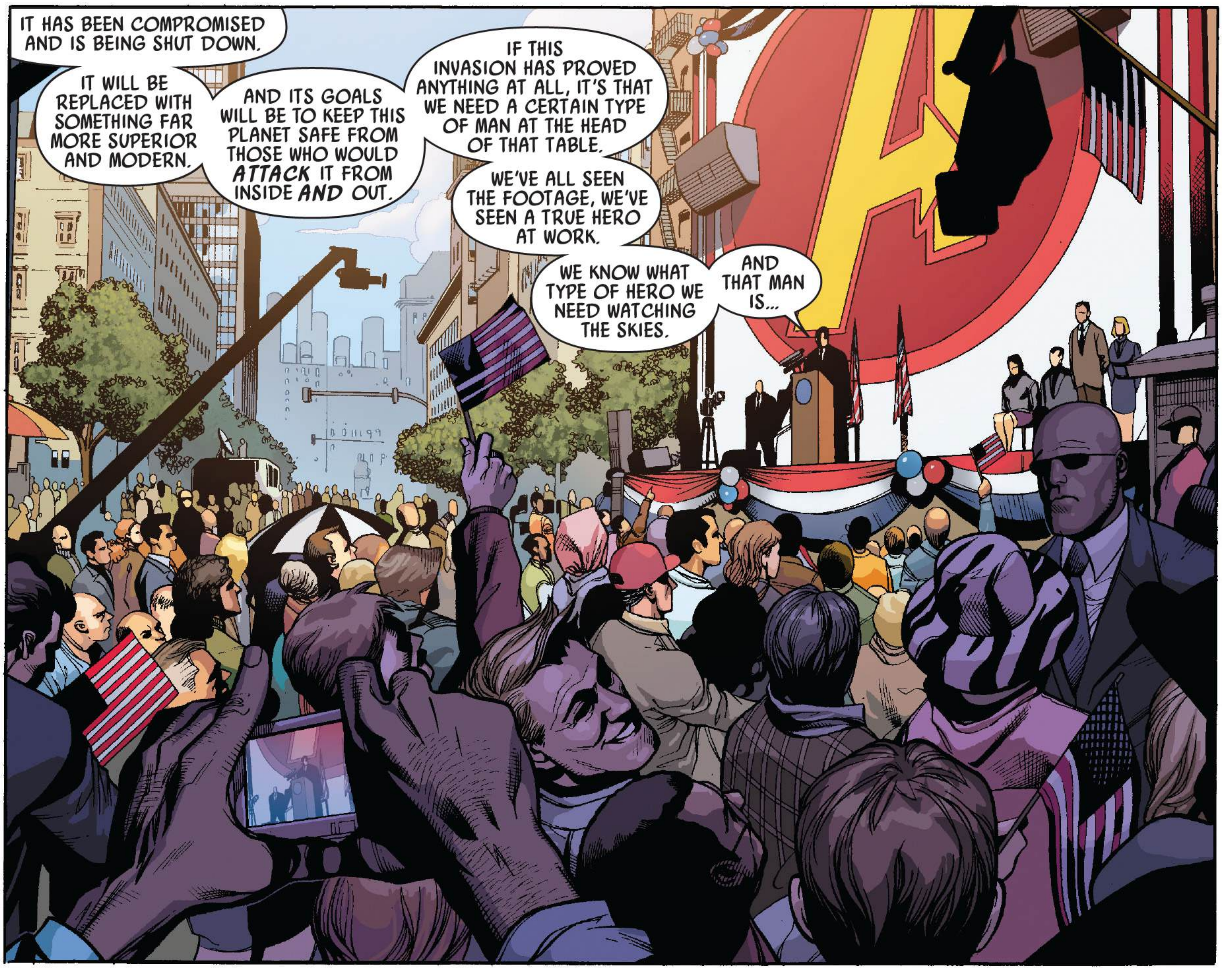
THE *BLUE* ONE!
YOU HIT THE BLUE BUTTON FIRST.
I DON'T KNOW.
WHY DIDN'T REED LEAVE A MANUAL?
I'M TELLING YOU, I REMEMBER--
HI, MOMMY!
THERE YOU ARE!
MOMMY!
BABIES!
YOU WOULD NOT *BELIEVE* THE DAY WE'VE HAD!
I *BET.*
THERE WAS A SKRULL-SUE AND SHE--AND SHE--
I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.
WE WERE TRAPPED IN THE *NEGATIVE ZONE.*
THANK YOU FOR SAVING THE CHILDREN.
SUE'D KILL US IF WE CAME BACK HERE WITHOUT THEM.
MOMMY, SOMEONE WAS DRESSED LIKE YOU AND THEY BLEW UP THE *WHOLE HOUSE!*
I KNOW. IT WASN'T ME.
WE TOTALLY KNOW.
WE KINDA TOOK CARE OF IT OURSELVES. JUST SO YOU KNOW.
I'M SO *PROUD* OF YOU.
OKAY, EVERYBODY OUT.
JUST IN CASE.

TK!
TK!
TK!
TK!
TK!
TK!
TK!
TK!
TK!
TK!
TK!
TK!
TK!
TK!
TK!
BUT OUR STUFF.
WE LOST ALL OUR STUFF.
IT'S JUST STUFF.
YEAH, BUT MY STUFF.
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
WHAT?
GUESS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO TO F.A.O. SCHWARZ AND GO A LITTLE NUTS.
SO, THIS WHOLE SKRULL THING...
WHO'S GONNA TAKE THE HIT FOR IT, YA THINK?

THOR, WE HAVE SO MUCH TO DO. THERE'S SO MUCH--
I'M--I'M JUST REALLY GLAD YOU'RE BACK WITH US.
I'M GLAD WE CAN FINALLY--
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND MY INTENTIONS, STARK. I CAME HERE BECAUSE I WAS NEEDED.
I TOLD YOU I WOULD NEVER FIGHT ALONGSIDE YOU AGAIN.
I TOLD YOU I WOULD NEVER JOIN THY RANKS AGAIN.
I ABHOR WHAT THOU HAST BECOME AND I'M SURE I WILL NOT BE THE ONLY ONE WHO FINDS THE BLAME IN ALL THIS TO FALL SQUARE ON THY SHOULDERS.

YOU OKAY, TEDDY?
HEY, DON'T SHAPE-SHIFT ONE MOLECULE OR I'LL SHIFT YOUR WHOLE HEAD OFF YOUR BODY.
KATE, EVEN WITH THE LITTLE I KNOW ABOUT MY HERITAGE, I KNOW THIS ISN'T WHAT THE SKRULL EMPIRE STANDS FOR.
THIS WAS EXTREMISM. THIS WAS TERRORISM.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY WANT THE EARTH SO BADLY.
DIDN'T YOU SAY THEY HAVE A DOZEN PLANETS?
THEY DO.
WE DO NOT.
TRAGEDY HAS DECIMATED OUR PEOPLE.
OUR PLANETS NO LONGER EXIST.
OUR FAITH WAS OUR LAST CHANCE.
THIS WAS OUR LAST CHANCE.
"SO LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT'S IMPORTANT NOW."

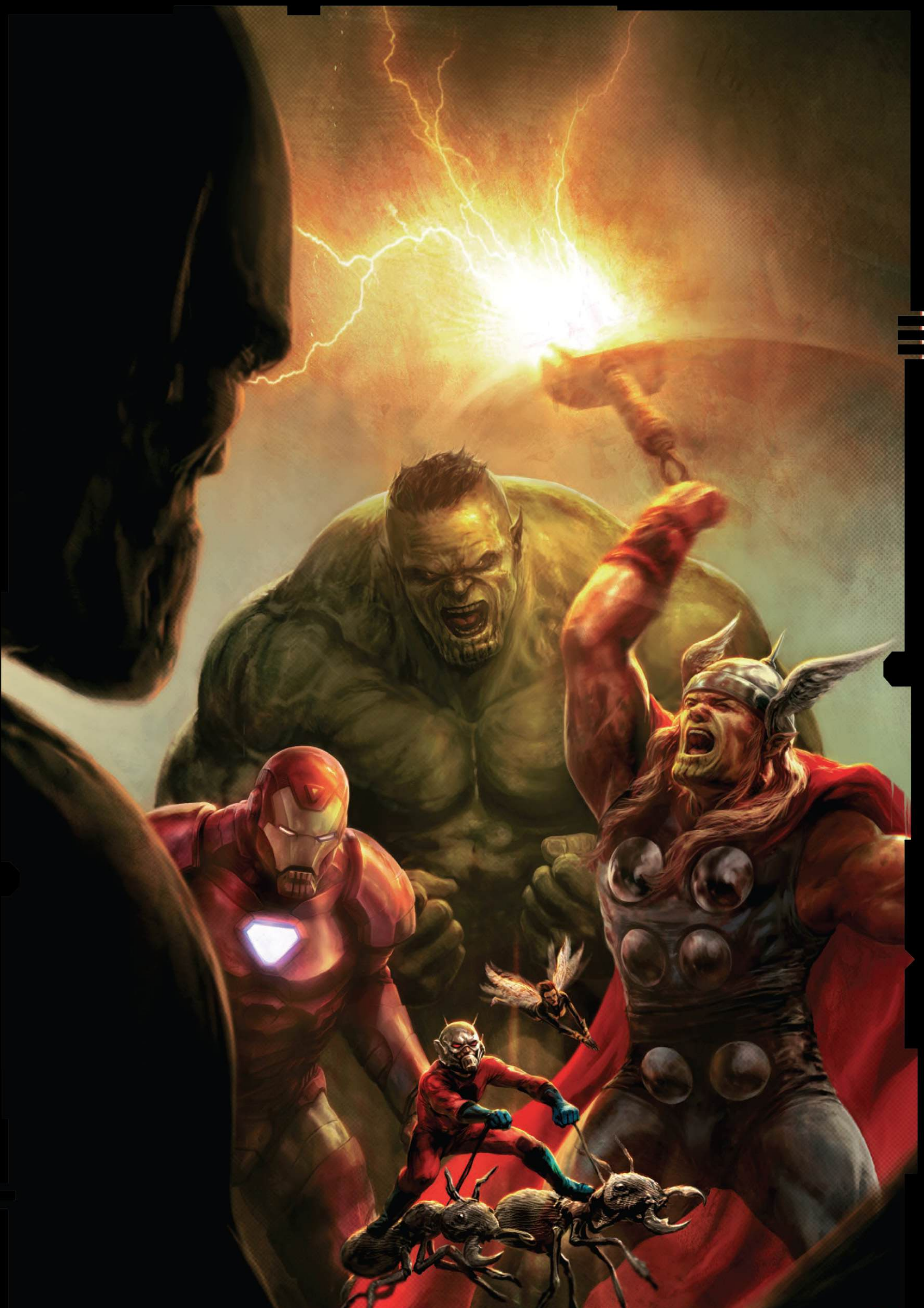

STARK IS THE ONE WHO STOOD ON THE MOUNTAINTOP AND DECIDED HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORLD.
HE'S THE ONE WHO SAID HE COULD PROTECT US ALL. BUT HE *COULDN'T*.
I AGREE, MISTER PRESIDENT.
THERE'S A SCHOOL OF THOUGHT THAT SAYS: A LITTLE LESS TIME FIGHTING THEMSELVES AND A LITTLE MORE TIME WITH AN EYE ON THE SKY, NONE OF THIS HAD TO HAPPEN.
I AGREE.
SO I'M SAYING RIGHT NOW: TONY STARK IS *OUT*.
AND *YOU*, SIR, YOU ARE *IN*.
THANK YOU, MISTER PRESIDENT.
ARE YOU ASKING ME, SIR, TO BE THE DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.?
NO.
S.H.I.E.L.D. IS NO LONGER VIABLE.


IT HAS BEEN COMPROMISED AND IS BEING SHUT DOWN.
IT WILL BE REPLACED WITH SOMETHING FAR MORE SUPERIOR AND MODERN.
AND ITS GOALS WILL BE TO KEEP THIS PLANET SAFE FROM THOSE WHO WOULD *ATTACK* IT FROM INSIDE *AND* OUT.
IF THIS INVASION HAS PROVED ANYTHING AT ALL, IT'S THAT WE NEED A CERTAIN TYPE OF MAN AT THE HEAD OF THAT TABLE.
WE'VE ALL SEEN THE FOOTAGE, WE'VE SEEN A TRUE HERO AT WORK.
WE KNOW WHAT TYPE OF HERO WE NEED WATCHING THE SKIES.
AND THAT MAN IS...

NORMAN OSBORN.
ALL THAT FELL UNDER THE S.H.I.E.L.D. BANNER, INCLUDING THE AVENGERS AND THE FIFTY-STATE INITIATIVE NOW FALLS UNDER THE THUNDERBOLTS INITIATIVE.
AND I WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING PERFECTLY CLEAR...STARK TECH WILL NO LONGER BE USED IN ANY FORM OF DEFENSE CAPACITY OR BY THE MILITARY.
OBVIOUSLY THE ENTIRETY OF STARK ENTERPRISES HAS BEEN COMPROMISED TO THE POINT OF USELESSNESS.
STARK ENTERPRISES/WESTCHESTER FACILITY.
WILL TONY STARK BE INDICTED?
A FULL-SCALE INVESTIGATION INTO WHAT WENT ON WILL BE CONDUCTED AND THOSE DEEMED NEGLIGENT WILL HAVE TO ANSWER--
WELL, AIN'T THAT A KICK IN THE HEAD.
HOW LONG BEFORE THEY REALIZE THEY JUST HANDED THE KEYS TO A--TONY?
TONY, ARE YOU OKAY?
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT?

AVENGERS TOWER.

THANK YOU FOR MEETING WITH ME.
OKAY.
IT'S A NEW DAY.
SO LISTEN CAREFULLY...
THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO BE...


APPROVED BY THE COSMIC CODE AUTHORITY

NEW AVENGERS #40

SKRULL WORLD SATRIANI: YEARS AGO.
TRANSLATED FROM THE IRDU DIALECT OF THE SKRULL THORT LANGUAGE
KING DORREK, SKRULL EMPIRE
YOUR EXCELLENCE. THE DAMAGE REPORT IS...
STOP.
DID WE GET WHAT WE NEEDED FROM THEM?
YES, YOUR EXCELLENCE.
THEN IT WAS WORTH IT.
TELL THE PRIESTS OF THE SCIENCES TO GET TO WORK.
THEY KNOW WHAT TO DO.
TELL THEM NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES...
...I'LL WAIT.
AND HOW LONG WILL WE HAVE TO WAIT?

PRINCESS VERANKE, TYERANX SEVEN PROVINCE
YOU *IGNORE* THE WORDS OF THE PROPHETS!
YOU IGNORE THE WRITINGS AND YOU SIT THERE AND LET OUR EMPIRE FALL APART AROUND YOU!
AND YOU DO **NOTHING!**
YOU DO *NOTHING!*
THIS IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE--
IT IS EXTREMELY APPROPRIATE!
THE PROPHETS' WORDS ARE YOURS TO LISTEN TO--TO LET GUIDE YOU--BUT THEY ARE *NOT* YOURS TO IGNORE.
THEY HAVE TOLD YOU THAT OUR WORLDS ARE IN DANGER. THEY HAVE FORETOLD OF THE WAVE OF DESTRUCTION.
A DEVOURER OF WORLDS. A WORLD OF BLUE WILL--
STOP IT! STOP!
IT'S MADNESS. IT'S CHILDREN'S STORIES!
YOU'RE A MADWOMAN AND THOSE THAT LISTEN TO YOU ARE DOUBLY INSANE!
YOU KNOW I SPEAK FOR *A GREAT MANY OF US!!*
YOU KNOW YOU'RE IGNORING THE *WILL OF YOUR PEOPLE!!*
AND IF THAT BE, THEN YOU ARE NO LONGER *FIT* TO SIT UPON THAT THRONE!!
REMOVE HER.

YOU ARE A RELIGIOUS ZEALOT AND A MADWOMAN!
TAKE THIS TRAITOR AWAY FROM ME!
NOOO!
LISTEN TO HER!
YOU CAN'T SILENCE HER!
SHE SPEAKS THE WORD!
SHE SPEAKS TRUTH!
NOOOO!
IT IS WRITTEN!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
YOU WILL SEE!
A WAVE!
IT IS WRITTEN!
IT IS--
A WAVE WILL COME!
A WAVE WILL COME!

YOUR MAJESTY... SHOULD YOU NOT TAKE YOUR LEAVE TO SAFEHOLD?
I DO NOT LEAVE MY THRONE TO COWER.
YOUR MAJESTY, YOU CANNOT HOLD HER. SHE IS BLOOD BORN.
SHE'S DANGEROUS.
IF YOU KILL HER, YOU WILL MARTYR HER.
IF YOU IMPRISON HER--
I KNOW.
IF YOU IMPRISON HER--
BE STILL.
THE SCIENCE VERSUS THE SPIRITS.
SO YOU'VE BECOME AN IMPORTANT ONE, HEAD PRIEST OF THE SCIENCES.
IT WOULD SEEM.
WHAT CAN HE DO?
EXPLAIN IT.
DRO'GE, ROYAL PRIEST OF THE SCIENCES
THE HUMANS THAT WERE HERE. REED RICHARDS, THE INHUMAN, THE MUTANT... WE HAD THEM PRISONER.
WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE A GENEROUS AMOUNT OF SAMPLES AND SPECIMENS FROM THEM.
WE HAVE SAMPLES OF THEIR ALIEN BIOLOGICAL CODES. THAT WHICH MAKES THEM WHAT THEY ARE.
AND WHAT WERE YOU TO DO WITH THIS?
WOR'IL, WAR COUNCIL DELEGATE
EXPERIMENTS. CLONING. DISSECTION. REVERSE BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING.
IT WILL TAKE TIME.
WE WILL MOVE YOUR FACILITIES TO ONE OF THE OTHER SKRULL WORLDS.
YOU WILL REPORT ONLY TO ME.
YES SIR.

HE LOVES ME... HE LOVES ME... HE LOVES ME...

HE'S AWAKE! OH THANK GOD!
YA SCARED US THERE, BUDDY.
WHERE AM I?
YOU'RE IN A HOSPITAL, BIG BRAIN.
I--I DON'T--
--REMEMBER--
YOU AND GALACTUS HAD A COUPLE OF WORDS.
YOU WON, REED.
BUT YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING IT OFF FOR A FEW DAYS.
I WAS SO WORRIED, REED. THIS IS THE MOST WORRIED I'VE EVER EVER BEEN.
GALACTUS?
TAKE IT EASY. YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT.
I HAVE?
TELL US WHAT YOU REMEMBER ABOUT GALACTUS.

TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT GALACTUS.
GALACTUS?
THIS SICKENS ME.
CRAZZAA
WHY DID YOU *DO* THAT?
MY PARDONS... DID WE DO SOMETHING WRONG?

THAT MUD-WALKER TURNED ONE OF MY FAMILY INTO A COW.
WHAT'S A COW?
MY POINT.
YOUR HIGHNESS. YOU WERE HERE ONLY TO OBSERVE.
THE CLONE UNVEILING WAS ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN--
YOU'LL MAKE ANOTHER.
THIS WASN'T THE ACTUAL HUMAN. IT WAS JUST A COPY. THE ASSASSINATION DID NOTHING TO--
MY APOLOGIES.
CARRY ON.

YEARS LATER:
THE SKRULL
THRONEWORLD

YEARS LATER
THE SKRULL THRONEWORLD HAS BEEN DESTROYED AND THE ARMADA IS CLOSE TO RUINS.
THEN THE SCRIPTURE WAS RIGHT.
YES, YOUR EXCELLENCE.
AND NOW YOU'VE COME BACK TO ME.
YES, MY QUEEN.

SKRULL WORLD SATRIANI
I STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY SO HUMBLED!
I AM HUMBLED BECAUSE WHAT I KNEW BEFORE I WAS CAST AWAY FROM YOU WAS TRUE!
THAT WE ARE GOOD AND WE ARE RIGHT!
MILLIONS OF OUR BROTHERS DIED SO THAT THE MOST SKEPTICAL AMONG YOU COULD NOW KNOW WHAT WE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN!
AS THE PROPHETS WROTE DOWN TO OUR ANCESTORS!
WE NOW KNOW THE WORDS AS WRITTEN ARE TRUTH!
THAT OUR PEOPLE WILL SURVIVE!
THAT OUR PEOPLE WILL HAVE A SACRED HOME!
IT IS CALLED EARTH!
AND IT IS OURS!
AS IT IS WRITTEN!
AS IT IS WRITTEN!

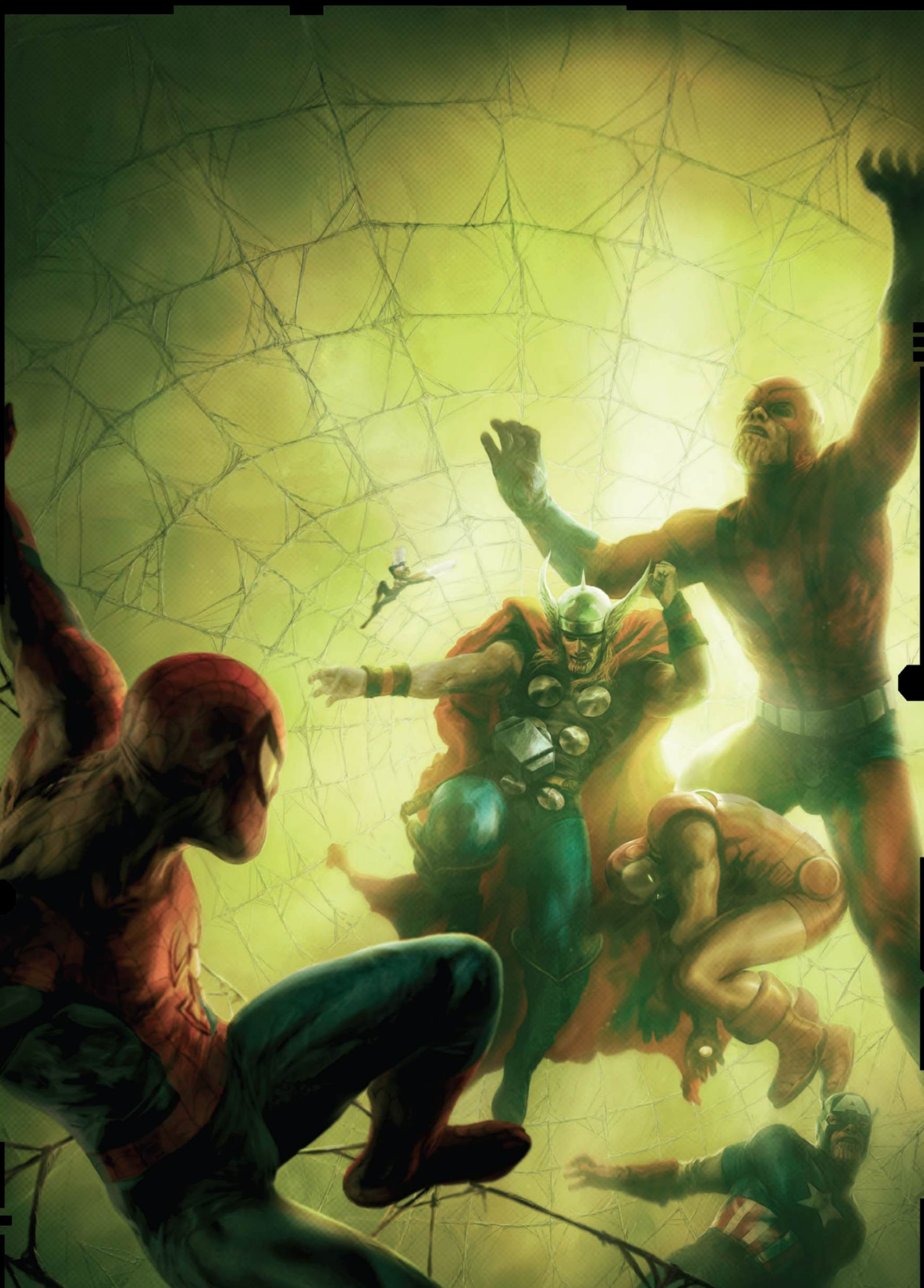
SKRULL WORLD TARNAX X
YOUR HIGHNESS... DELEGATES...
YEARS AGO, AS YOU KNOW, A CONSORTIUM OF HUMANS INCLUDING REED RICHARDS OF THE EARTH'S FANTASTIC FOUR CAME TO OUR THRONEWORLD WITH A MESSAGE OF HOSTILITY.
WHAT SOME OF YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW, IS THOSE SIX INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTED VERY SPECIFIC PARTS OF EARTH'S SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY.
THEY REPRESENTED THE GENETIC MUTANTS...
...THE KREE-SPAWNED INHUMANS...
...ONE OF THE MASTERS OF THIS DIMENSION'S MYSTIC ARTS...
...THE EARTH'S VERY FIRST MUTANT AND KING OF ITS WATER KINGDOMS...
...AND THESE TWO WHO ARE CONSIDERED THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC MINDS THE EARTH HAS RIGHT NOW.
WE WERE ABLE TO--AND I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN THIS AS COMMONLY AS I CAN...
WE WERE ABLE TO DETAIN THOSE HUMANS FOR A BRIEF TIME AND GATHER FROM THEM SAMPLES OF THEIR DNA AND GENEALOGY.
OUR GREATEST SCIENTISTS--OUR OWN PRIESTS OF THE MAGICS AND THE PHYSICS--HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR YEARS ON WHAT WE UNCOVERED THAT DAY.
WHAT WE HAVE FOR YOU NOW ARE SOME RATHE LARGE BREAKTHROUGHS THAT WE BELIEVE, WITH THE QUEEN'S GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTION, MAY CHANGE THE COURSE OF OUR EMPIRE'S FORTUNES.
THROUGH A SERIES OF EXPERIMENTS WE WERE ABLE TO STRIP OUT THE HUMANS' NEURAL CODED BRAIN WAVE PATTERNS.
BASICALLY DOWNLOADING ALL THE INFORMATION THEIR GENEALOGY AND BRAIN PATTERNS AND DNA HAD TO OFFER US.
WE NOW KNOW THINGS ABOUT THEM AS A SPECIES THAT *THEY* DON'T EVEN KNOW.
WE KNOW MORE ABOUT HUMAN EVOLUTION AND FUTURE HUMAN EVOLUTION THAN THEY KNOW.
WE KNOW MORE ABOUT THE MUTANT GENE AND THE HISTORY OF THEIR WORLD THAN THEY KNOW.
AND FROM THERE WE WERE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING...
WELL DONE, SIR.

THIS IS THE MODEL FOR OUR NEW SUPER-SKRULL WARRIOR.
THOUGH HE RESEMBLES THE PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES OF WARRIOR KL'RT AND HIS FAUX FANTASTIC FOUR POWERS--
--THAT WAS, FOR THE MOST PART, SCIENTIFIC TRICKERY.
THIS IS THE REAL THING.
ANY HUMAN OR MUTANT WHO WE CAN STRIP A DNA SAMPLE OF, WE CAN NOW COMPLETELY DUPLICATE THEIR ABILITIES.
ANY MIX OR MATCH OF ANY KIND.
OR IF YOU WANT JUST A HYPER-POWERED REED RICHARDS OR BEN GRIMM, WE CAN DO THAT TOO.
BUT LIKE KL'RT DISPLAYED FOR MANY YEARS, WE BELIEVE THAT A WARRIOR WITH A *MIXTURE* OF POWER ATTRIBUTES REVEALS ITSELF TO BE A MUCH MORE ESTABLISHED THREAT.
THE MORE WEAPONS A WARRIOR HAS...
A NEW ARMY.
EXACTLY MY FEELINGS ON IT.
THAT IS SPECTACULAR.
AND WHO IS THIS BRAVE SOUL WHO VOLUNTEERED HIMSELF FOR SUCH A PROCESS?
AND, MAY I ADD, THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF THE GALACTUS ATTACK.
A HUMBLE SERVANT TO THE EMPIRE.
IMPRESSIVE, YES. YES, YES!
BUT IT'S JUST *ANOTHER* IDEA FOR *ANOTHER* PHYSICAL ATTACK.
THIS IS WHERE WE ALWAYS FAIL AGAINST THE POWERED MUTANTS AND HEROES TIME AND TIME AGAIN.
DELEGATE CH-GRA
IF I MAY, YOUR HIGHNESS, THAT'S NOT ALL...

THERE IS ANOTHER REASON WE HAVE CALLED THE COUNCIL TOGETHER...
WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE TO YOU THAT WE HAVE *FINALLY* FOUND A WAY FOR SKRULLS TO WALK AMONG HUMANS COMPLETELY UNDETECTED.
BUT MUTANTS...
YES, AND THEIR MAGICS AND THEIR TECHNOLOGIES. ALL OF IT.
IN THE PAST, OUR ABILITY TO SHIFT FORM HAS BEEN OUR GREATEST ASSET IN INFILTRATING THEIR NUMBERS...
...BUT IT'S ONLY HAD LIMITED SUCCESS FOR US AS A WARTIME TACTIC.
I'M SAYING TO YOU THIS...
WITH OUR NEW GENETIC ENHANCEMENTS, ONCE A SKRULL SPY HAS INFILTRATED THE HUMAN PEOPLE...
...AS LONG AS THE SHAPE THIS SKRULL HAS CHOSEN IS MAINTAINED IN ITS ENTIRETY...
...NO EXISTING POWER ON *EARTH* COULD DETECT IT.
BUT IT HAS TO *REMAIN* IN THE SHAPE OF THE HUMAN.
ONE WOULD HAVE TO BECOME THAT HUMAN MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY.
ANY CHANGE COULD SIGNAL DETECTION FROM ONE SUCH AS, LET'S SAY TONY STARK.
HAS THIS BEEN TESTED?
WARRIOR SIRI.
PLEASE ENTER.

MY NAME ON EARTH IS ELEKTRA NATCHIOS.
I HAVE *BEEN* ON EARTH FOR THE LAST CYCLE.
I HAVE HAD COMMUNICATION AND INTERACTION WITH S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMANDER NICK FURY, A MAN CODE-NAMED DAREDEVIL, THE MUTANT WOLVERINE, AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSASSIN CONSORTIUM KNOWN AS THE HAND.
MY IDENTITY WAS NOT DETECTED.
MY FULL REPORT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO YOU AT THE QUEEN'S DISCRETION.
MY HONOR.
MY QUEEN.
EXPLAIN TO THE COUNCIL HOW THE IDENTITY OF ELEKTRA NATCHIOS WAS WELL-SUITED FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.
HER ENTIRE PERSONA IS WRAPPED IN MYSTERY.
SHE IS KNOWN TO THE POWERS OF THE EARTH, BUT NO ONE KNOWS HER INTIMATELY.
SHE HAS ACTUALLY EXPIRED FROM THE MORTAL PLANE AND BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE.
YES.
AND THERE ARE A HANDFUL OF OTHER HUMANS WHO FIT THIS DESCRIPTION.
REPLACING *THEM.*
TAKING THE REAL HUMAN AND REPLACING THEM WITH ONE OF OURS HAS A LOW RISK AND HIGH IMPACT.
IT IS THE COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATION THAT WE INITIATE THIS PRE-STRIKE STRATEGY IMMEDIATELY.
HERE IS A LIST OF OTHER CANDIDATES THAT I'VE PUT TOGETHER.
THIS IS JUST PRELIMINARY, THERE WILL BE MORE.
WONDERFUL.
THE WORD IS GIVEN.
BUT...

I WILL BE AMONG THOSE ON EARTH INFILTRATION ASSIGNMENT.
I WILL TAKE A ROLE IN THIS STRATEGY.
YOUR EXCELLENCE, YOU'RE NEEDED HERE.
I WAS BANISHED FROM THIS EMPIRE FOR YEARS, AND EVERYONE HAD WHAT THEY NEEDED TO MOVE ALONG.
I WILL LEAD THIS INITIATIVE.
I WILL GO WHERE *I* AM NEEDED. AND I AM NEEDED ON EARTH TO PREPARE US FOR THAT WHICH IS WRITTEN.
AS YOU WISH.
YOUR EXCELLENCE, DO YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE AS TO WHICH HUMAN YOU'D LIKE TO LIVE AS?
COUNSEL... WHICH OF THESE DO YOU BELIEVE IS IN A POSITION TO DO THE MOST... DAMAGE?
ENHANCE FILE DRI.

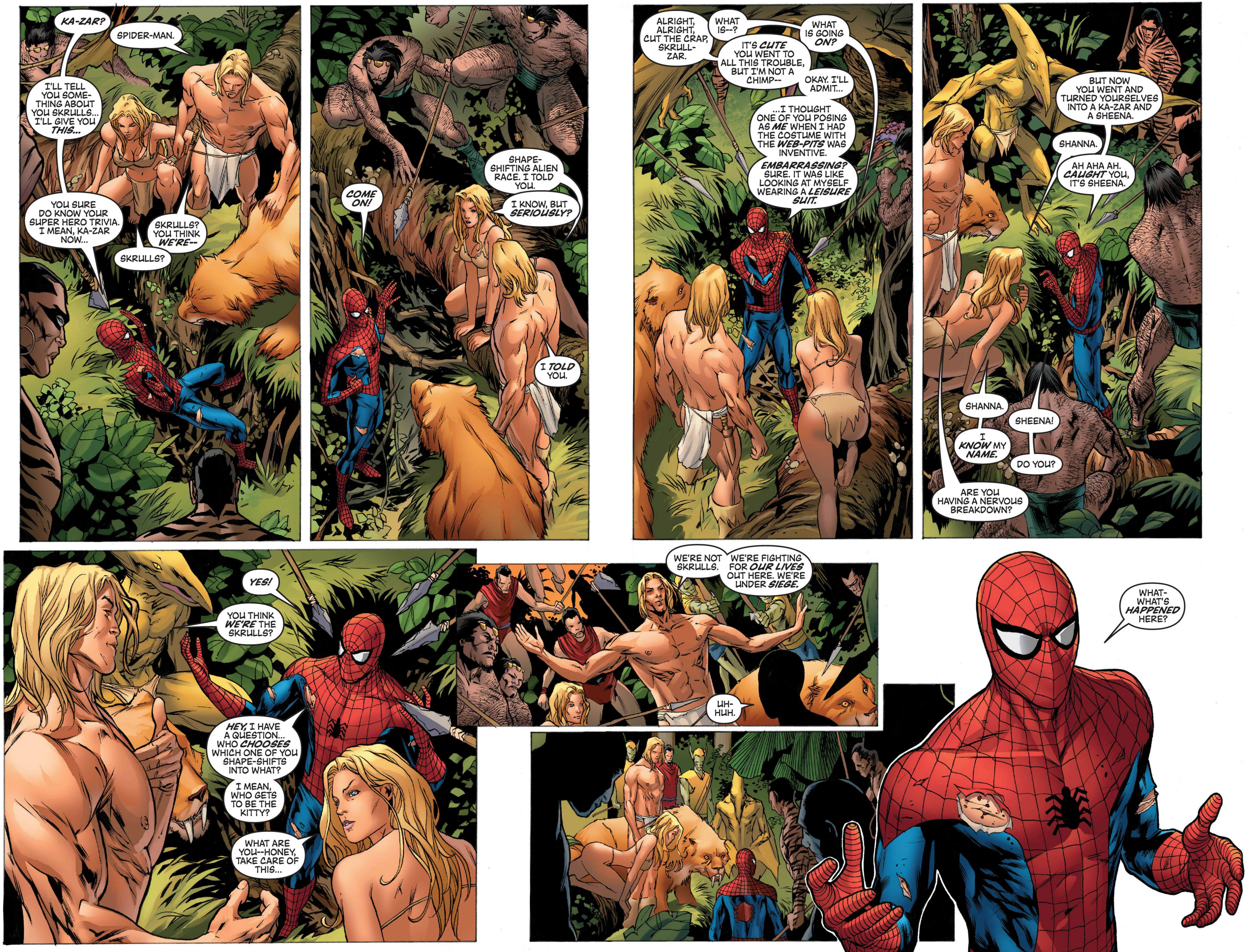


NEW AVENGERS #41

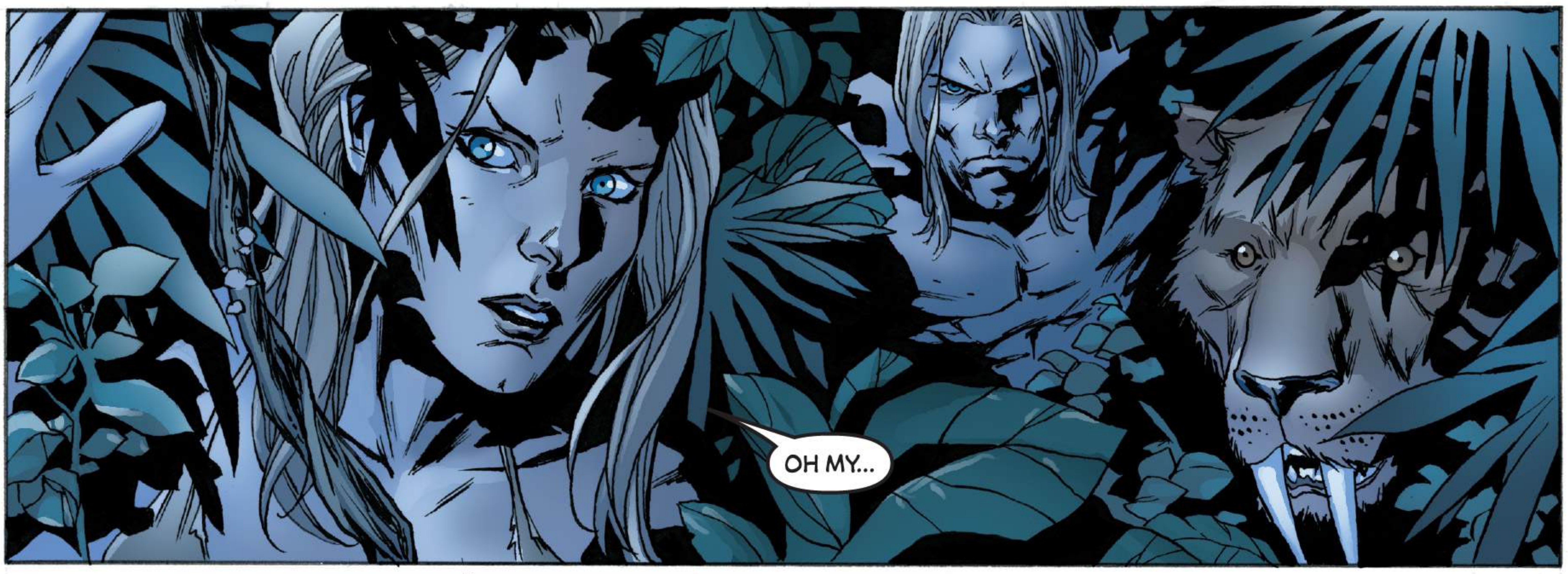
THE SAVAGE LAND, RIGHT NOW
HUUAAARRRGGARR!

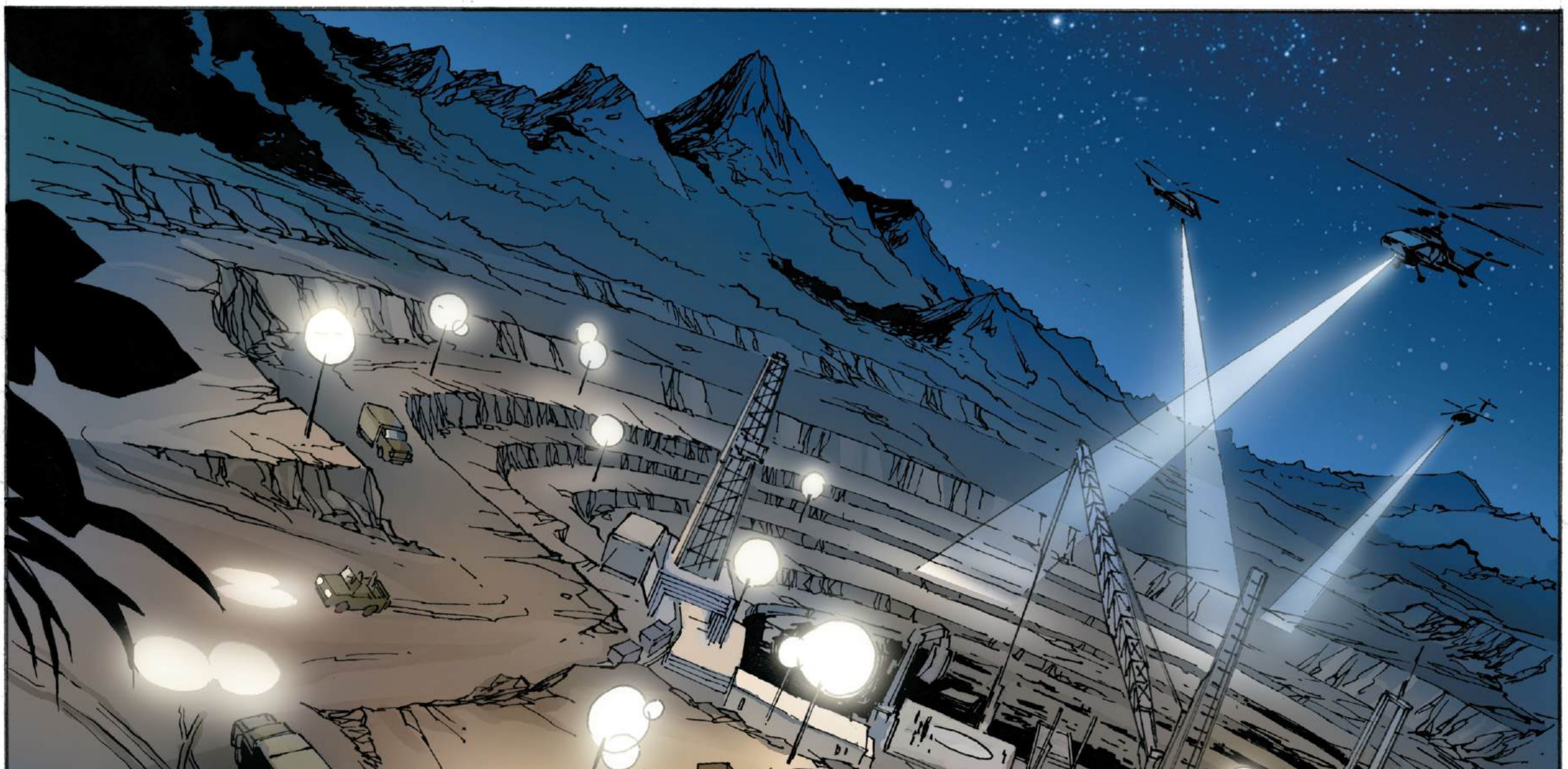
FOOOM
HUARGAR!
HUAARRGAARR!
WELL, THIS IS JUST GREAT!
CHUNK
HUAARRGAARR!

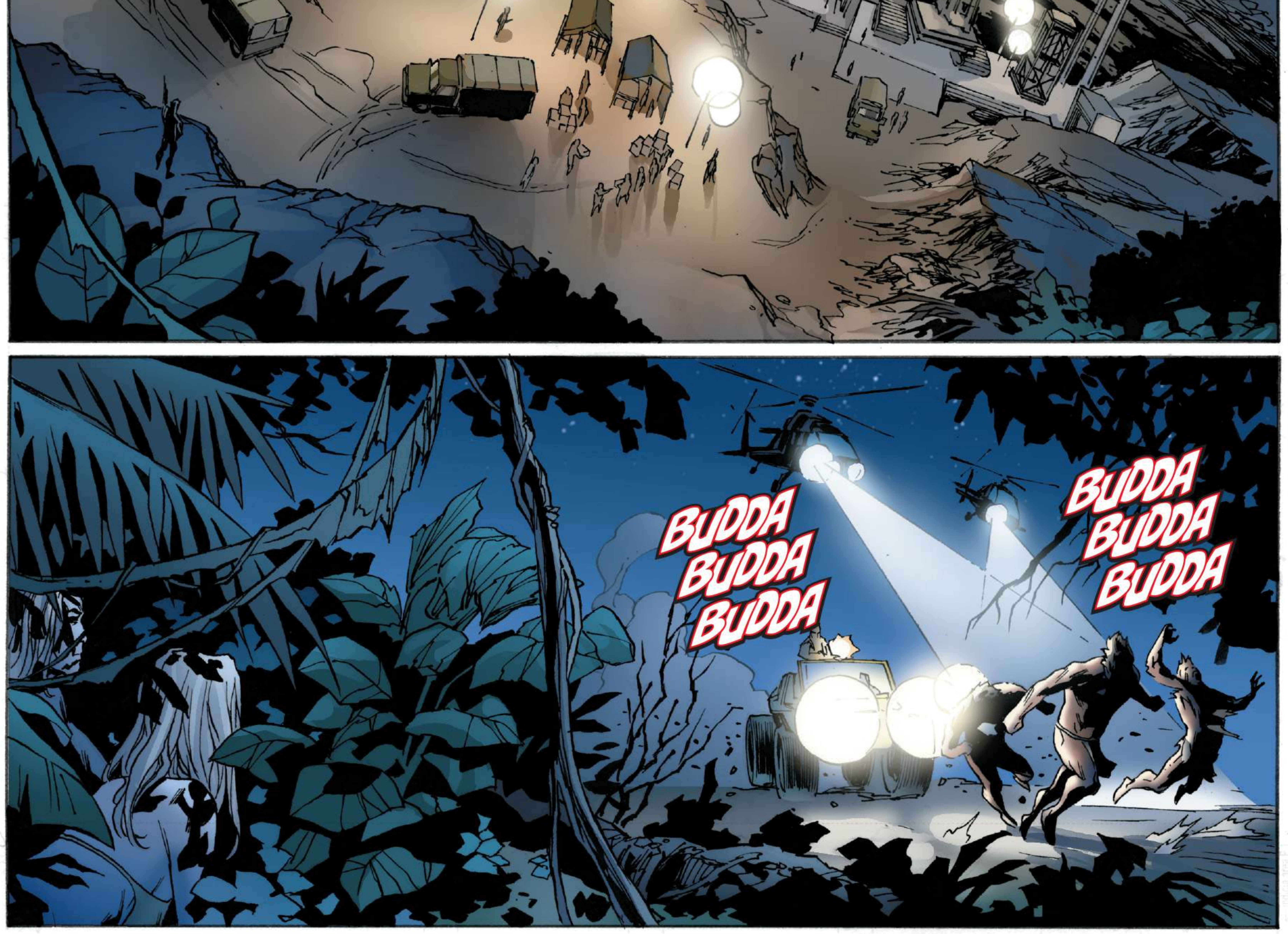
CRACK
OW.
OW.
CRACK
OW.
AND... OW.
FARUMP


KA-ZAR?
SPIDER-MAN.
I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT YOU SKRULLS... I'LL GIVE YOU *THIS...*
YOU SURE DO KNOW YOUR SUPER HERO TRIVIA. I MEAN, KA-ZAR NOW...
SKRULLS? YOU THINK *WE'RE--*
SKRULLS?
COME ON!
SHAPE-SHIFTING ALIEN RACE. I TOLD YOU.
I KNOW, BUT *SERIOUSLY?*
I *TOLD* YOU.
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, CUT THE CRAP, SKRULL-ZAR.
WHAT IS--?
WHAT IS GOING *ON?*
IT'S *CUTE* YOU WENT TO ALL THIS TROUBLE, BUT I'M NOT A CHIMP--
OKAY. I'LL ADMIT...
...I THOUGHT ONE OF YOU POSING AS *ME* WHEN I HAD THE COSTUME WITH THE *WEB-PITS* WAS INVENTIVE.
EMBARRASSING? SURE. IT WAS LIKE LOOKING AT MYSELF WEARING A *LEISURE SUIT.*
BUT NOW YOU WENT AND TURNED YOURSELVES INTO A KA-ZAR AND A SHEENA.
SHANNA.
AH AHA AH. *CAUGHT* YOU, IT'S SHEENA.
SHANNA.
SHEENA!
I *KNOW* MY *NAME.*
DO YOU?
ARE YOU HAVING A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN?
YES!
YOU THINK *WE'RE* THE SKRULLS?
HEY, I HAVE A QUESTION... WHO *CHOOSES* WHICH ONE OF YOU SHAPE-SHIFTS INTO WHAT?
I MEAN, WHO GETS TO BE THE KITTY?
WHAT ARE YOU--HONEY, TAKE CARE OF THIS...
WE'RE NOT SKRULLS.
WE'RE FIGHTING FOR *OUR LIVES* OUT HERE. WE'RE UNDER *SIEGE.*
UH-HUH.
WHAT-WHAT'S *HAPPENED* HERE?

MONTHS AGO.
HEY...
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
HUNTING.
FOR THREE DAYS?
WHERE'D YOU *THINK* I WAS?
NEXT TIME I'LL CALL.
WELL, I DIDN'T KNOW, DID I?
BUDDA BUDDA
GUNS.


OH MY...




BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA

OH MY GOD...
HOLD, ZABU, HOLD.
THEY HAVE GUNS AND THEY ARE MANY.
RRRR...
THEY'RE POACHING THE VIBRANIUM MINES.
S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS? THOSE $*%$¢.
FURY WOULD NEVER BETRAY US LIKE THIS.
WELL HE IS.
HE OWES ME.
HONEY, HE BETRAYED YOU.
THEY ARE POACHING THE VIBRANIUM MINES AND THEY ARE USING OUR PEOPLE TO DO IT.
THAT VIBRANIUM IS USED TO MAKE WEAPONS.
TONY STARK WEAPONS.
I KN--
WORLD-CHANGING WEAPONS.
AND THEY ARE TAKING IT-- EVEN THOUGH WORLD LAWS HAVE BEEN PASSED TO STOP THAT FROM EVER HAPPENING.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT? THE ONLY QUESTION I HAVE, REALLY, IS WHAT TOOK THEM SO LONG?
IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
BLAM
LET'S GO.

LEFT QUADRANT PERIMETER SECURE. OVER.
OVER.
MM--
RUUSSSLLLEE
SKRACK
SHANNA?
I DIDN'T DO THAT...

WHAT IS THIS?
IS IT A MUTATE?
OR A MUTANT, MAYBE?
IT SMELLS.
I-I DON'T THINK IT'S HUMAN.
DID I KILL IT?
I THINK YOU DID.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO HIT IT THAT HARD.
WE TALKED ABOUT YOUR TEMPER.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
I JUST WANTED TO KNOCK HER OUT FAST BEFORE SHE YELLED.
I-I THINK-- I THINK IT'S A SKRULL.
A WHAT?
THEY'RE A SHAPE-SHIFTING ALIEN RACE.
THERE IS NO SUCH--
KREE/SKRULL WAR?
NEVER *HEARD* OF IT.
REALLY?
WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT?
WE *SHOULD* GET INTERNET UP HERE.
GET HER CLOTHES.
I'LL GET THIS FIGURED OUT.

LEFT QUADRANT PERIMETER STATUS? OVER.
UH, LEFT QUADRANT PERIMETER SECURE. OVER.
OVER.
RRRR...
I KNOW.
PICK UP THE SHOVEL.
MURR...
THIS. THIS IS A SHOVEL. PICK IT UP.
MAAH!
SHO-VEL.
MUUGG!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT. JUST DO WHATEVER YOU NEED TO DO TO GET THE JOB HERE DONE QUICKLY.
THE ONLY PEOPLE THAT EVER COME TO THIS PART OF THE EARTH ARE THE AVENGERS AND THE X-MEN...
...AND THEY'LL COME HERE WHEN WE TELL THEM TO.
I'M TELLING YOU THERE ARE OTHER HUMANS IN THIS AREA. SAVAGE HUMANS.
A TOTAL OF WHAT?
FIVE?
MAYBE?
BUT THE AVENGERS ARE NO MORE. RIGHT?
WE HAVE AGENTS INSIDE THE NEW AVENGERS. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
NEW AVENGERS?
YOU HAVE ALL THE WEAPONS YOU NEED, ALL THE NUMBERS YOU NEED, AND FOR THE HEAVY LIFTING YOU HAVE THESE... THINGS.
DOES THE QUEEN KNOW ABOUT THIS PART OF THE--?
AGAIN, YOU ONLY HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT--
LEFT QUADRANT DELTA, HAVE YOU LEFT YOUR POST?
HELLO.
AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE, DARLIN'?

BUDDA BUDDA
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
AAGGHH!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
SHE NEVER LISTENS.

DO NOT LET HER-- *AGH!*
DON'T CHANGE FORM!
BUDDA BUDDA
BUDDA
CLICK
TAKE HER DOWN!
DO NOT KILL IT!
CLICK CLICK CLICK
OFF THE JEEP!
HUURREAA!
SPAK
YOU MOVE AND WE WILL PUT YOU DOWN! GET DOWN FROM THERE!
FORGET IT!
PUT HER DOWN!
NOW!

RRAAUUUARR!
BUDDA BUDDA
AAGGHH!
BUDDA BUDDA
AAGGHH!
SHUK
BUDDA BUDDA
LET'S GO! NOW!
BUDDA BUDDA
RRAAUUUARR!
VROOM
DON'T LOSE IT!

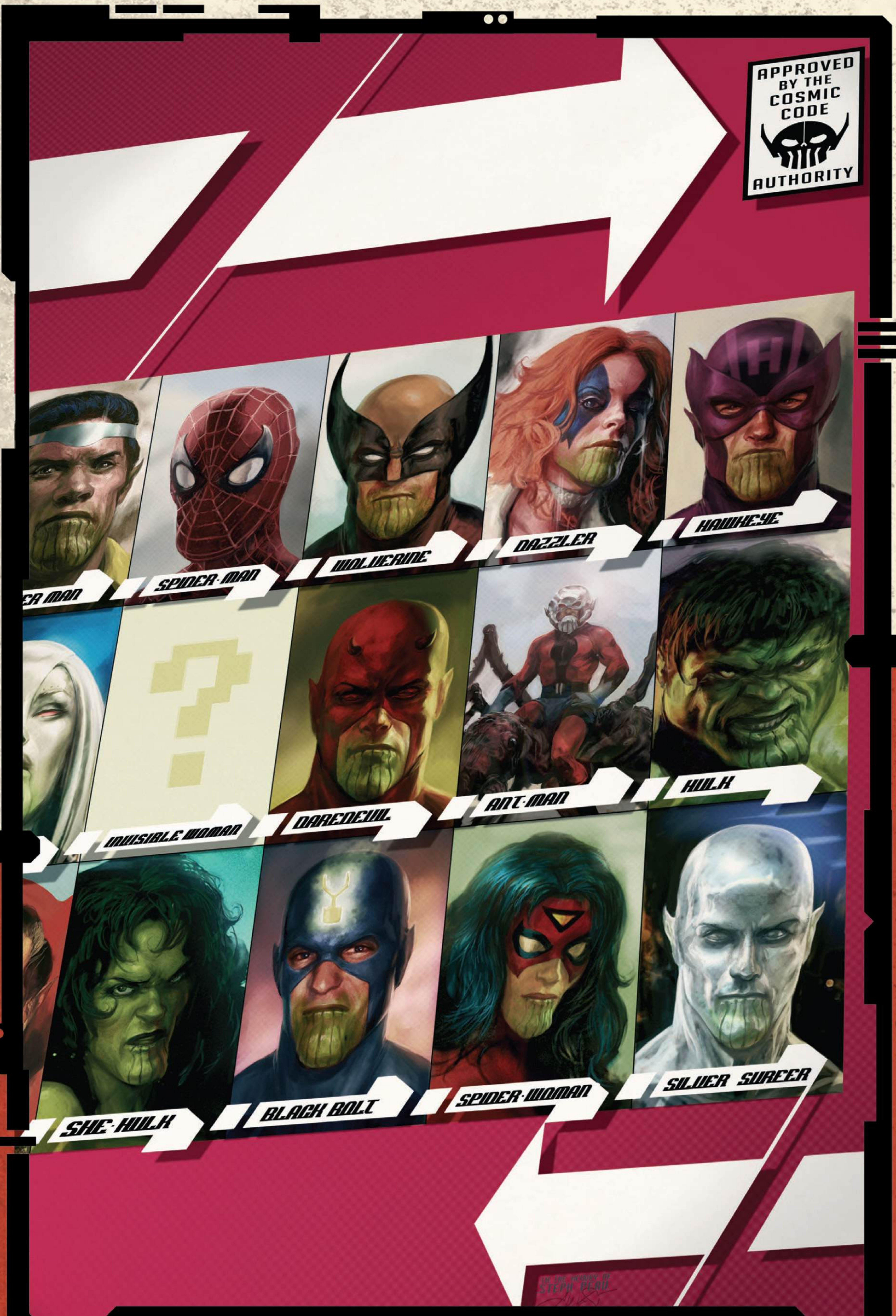
HOURS LATER.
THEY FOUND IT.
TOLD YOU THEY WERE ON US.
NOW THEY'RE NOT.
OKAY, WE NEED A PLAN.
WE CONTACT THE MAINLAND. WE TELL FURY--
HONEY, *LISTEN* TO ME, THEY'RE--THESE THINGS--THEY'RE ALREADY INSIDE S.H.I.E.L.D.
SHE SAID: WE HAVE PEOPLE IN THE AVENGERS.
THEY CHANGE SHAPE. ALIENS OR NOT, WHATEVER THEY ARE, THEY GOT IN.
THEY GOT INTO S.H.I.E.L.D. AND THE AVENGERS.
WHO *KNOWS* WHERE ELSE THEY SNUCK INTO.
THERE'S NO ONE TO CALL THAT WE CAN TRUST.
WE HAVE TO DO THIS *OURSELVES.*
GATHER THE PEOPLE OF THE SAVAGE LAND TO PROTECT OUR OWN.
AN ARMY.
THERE YOU GO.
AND WE STOP THEM OURSELVES.
AND THEN WE TAKE THAT SKUNK-HAIRED SKANK AND WE SHAKE HER TILL SHE TELLS US WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S GOING ON.

FERUNE MADAMA?
YES. WE'LL ATTACK FROM THREE SIDES.
VASOOLI?
I KNOW WHAT THEY ***LOOK*** LIKE, BUT I'M TELLING YOU THOSE THINGS ARE NOT FROM THIS EARTH.
SHANINI CATUNILANA...
I KNOW, BUT IT'S A FIGHT WE MUST--
WAIT, LOOK!
WOLVERINE? SPIDER-MAN?
TONY STARK?
WHAT ARE ***THEY*** DOING HERE?
IT'S A--
IT'S A TRICK. IT'S ***GOT*** TO BE.
LET'S SEE...
OH MY...

MUTAMIBI MUTANO!
USTAH!
USTAH!
"BUT IF YOU ARE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE, YOU WOULD KNOW THIS PART ALREADY."

I *WAS* THERE THAT DAY.
THAT WAS A SQUIRRELLY DAY.
I DIDN'T SEE ANY SKRULLS, THOUGH.
ALL I KNOW IS WHEN WE, THE AVENGERS, *WERE* HERE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE, WE SAW S.H.I.E.L.D. DOING WHAT THEY WERE DOING...
...AND BEFORE WE COULD DEAL WITH IT, WE WERE ATTACKED BY S.H.I.E.L.D.
IF NOT FOR IRON MAN... *THAT* WOULD HAVE BEEN THAT.
AND NO, I--WE NEVER GOT ANY ANSWERS ABOUT THAT DAY. NONE OF US DID.
IT WOULD SEEM THEY SUCCEEDED IN COVERING UP YOUR FINDING WHAT WE FOUND.
CAPTAIN AMERICA, BEFORE *HE* DIED, HE THOUGHT IT WAS SOME REBELLIOUS FACTION IN S.H.I.E.L.D. THAT WAS TRYING TO KILL US.
THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING ROTTEN GOING ON WITH S.H.I.E.L.D.
IF ONLY.
HONEY, YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE TOO TRUSTING HERE.
INSTINCTS.
HONEY...
SKRULLS WERE MINING *VIBRANIUM* HERE.
AND THEN TRIED TO *KILL* US HERE.
NOW *YOU'RE* HERE DOING, I DON'T *KNOW* WHAT.
KA-ZAR OR SKRULL-ZAR... WHICHEVER ONE YOU ARE...
THERE'S PIECES MISSING TO YOUR STORY. AND ALL OF A SUDDEN I FEEL THAT FEELING...
YOU'RE FIBBING.
I SWEAR ON THE HONOR OF MY FATHER THAT WHAT I AM SAYING IS--
RRRRRRRRRRR!

HONOR? WHAT DO *YOU* KNOW OF HONOR?


APPROVED BY THE COSMIC CODE AUTHORITY
ER MAN
SPIDER-MAN
WOLVERINE
DAZZLER
HAWKEYE
INVISIBLE WOMAN
DAREDEVIL
ANT-MAN
HULK
SHE-HULK
BLACK BOLT
SPIDER-WOMAN
SILVER SURFER

NEW AVENGERS #42

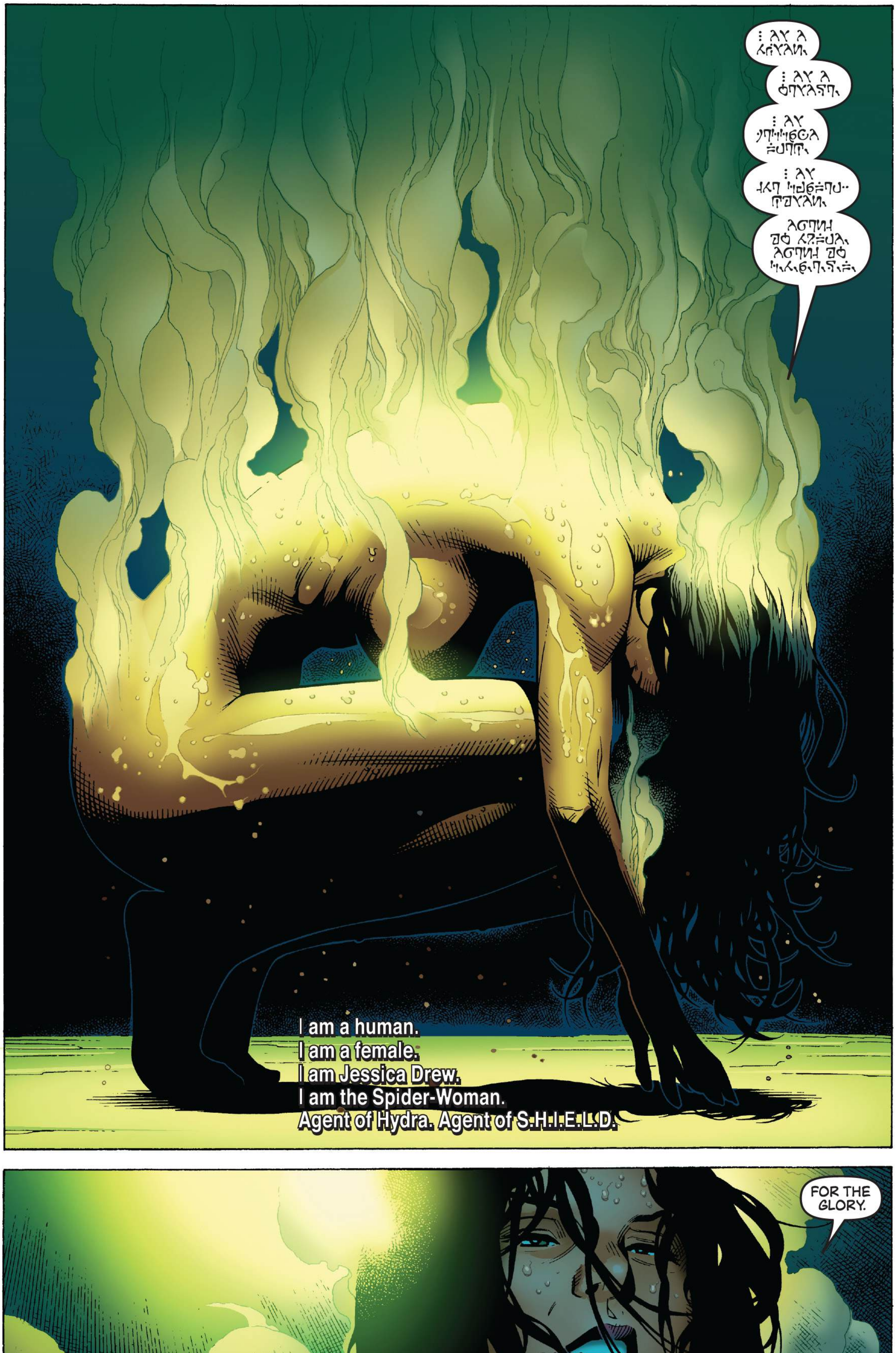
MONTHS AGO. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
DO IT.
WHAT?!
FURY, ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR--?
DO IT. GET YOUR POWERS BACK.
I'LL PUT YOU TO WORK.
I'LL TELL *YOU* WHAT TO FEED HYDRA. AND YOU'LL FEED *US* WHAT *THEY* TELL YOU.
UGH!
THIS IS GOOD. YEAH.
GOOD? THEY'RE GOING TO *KILL* ME.
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL YOU EITHER WAY. NOTHIN' WE CAN DO ABOUT *THAT.*
THEY TARGETED YOU.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL DO THE RIGHT THING IN THE MEANTIME.
THEY'RE WATCHING US RIGHT NOW.
GOOD. WE *WANT* THEM TO. NOW THEY KNOW YOU CAME TO ME.
BUT THEY CAN'T HEAR US. MY HIGH TECH DOOHICKEY BEATS THEIR HIGH TECH DOOHICKEY.
I WANNA SCREAM.
GO AHEAD. THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU.
HERE'S HOW IT'LL WORK...

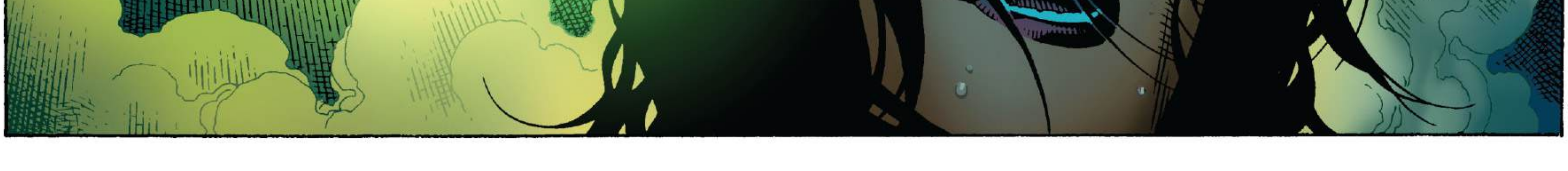
HYDRA BASE, LOCATION UNKNOWN
JESSICA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
OVER TIME, YOUR GENETIC CODES, WHICH YOUR FATHER ALTERED IN YOUR YOUTH, WORKED TO CORRECT THEMSELVES.
YOUR BODY HAS BEEN FIGHTING TO "HEAL" ITSELF TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE.
IT TOOK A FEW MONTHS BUT WE WERE ABLE TO ISOLATE AND REJUVENATE A SAMPLE OF YOUR GENETIC TISSUE AND CLONE IT.
IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME--
--BUT WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU YOUR POWERS BACK.
I MUST TELL YOU JESSICA...
YOUR FATHER WAS *DECADES* AHEAD OF HIS TIME.
YOU ARE AN INSPIRED SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT.
YOU SHOULD BE OH SO PROUD.
HAIL HYDRA.

SHE'S OUT.
SHALL WE PROCEED, MY QUEEN?
LET'S.
FOR THE GLORY.

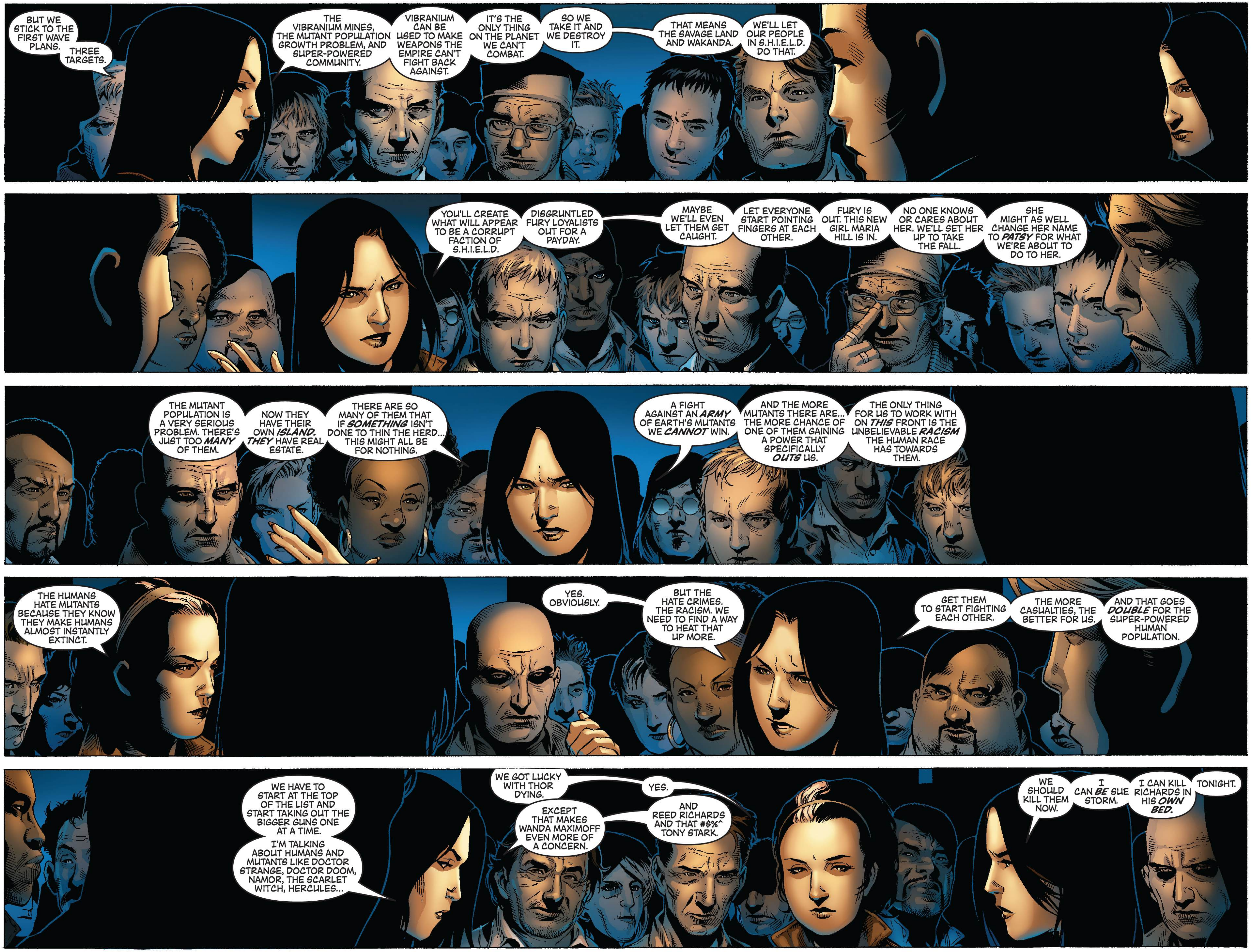
AAGGHH!

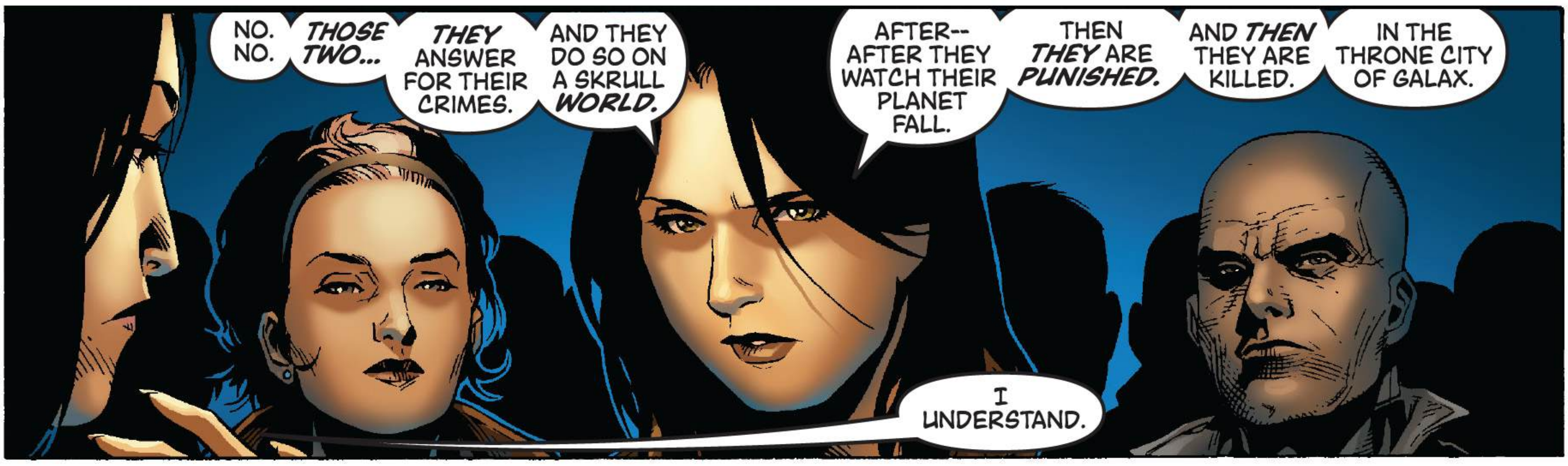
The blood of a human.
The blood of a female.
The blood of Jessica Drew.
The blood of the Spider-Woman.
The blood of an agent of Hydra.
The blood of an agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.

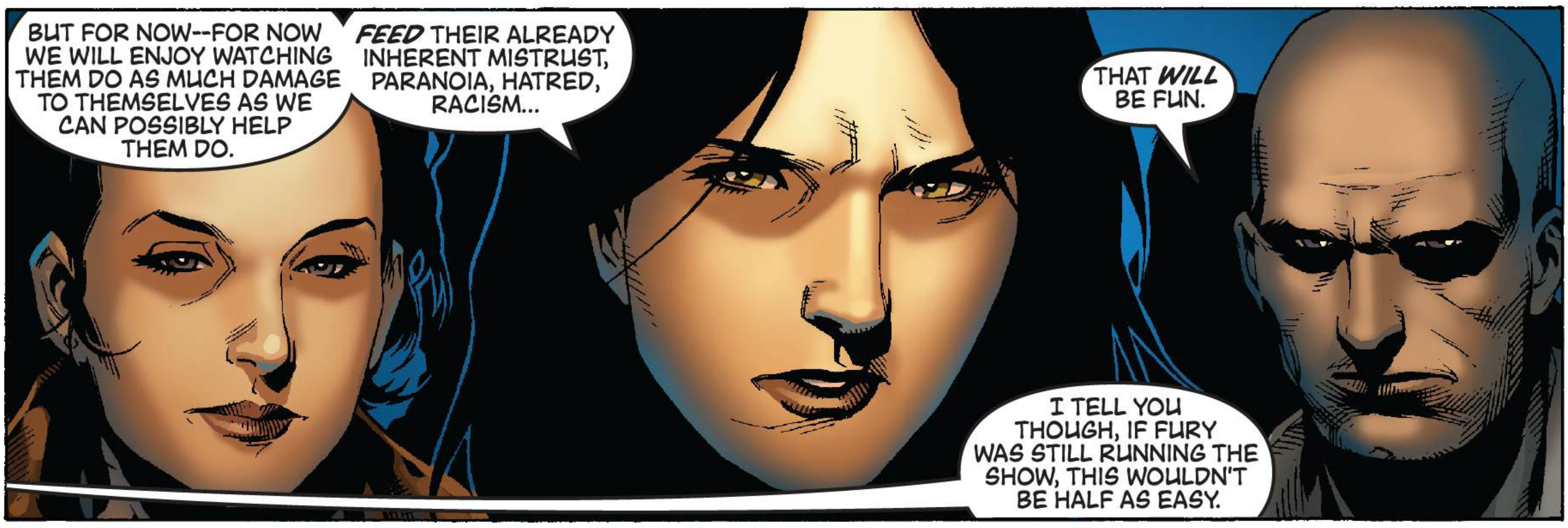

I am a human.
I am a female.
I am Jessica Drew.
I am the Spider-Woman.
Agent of Hydra. Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.

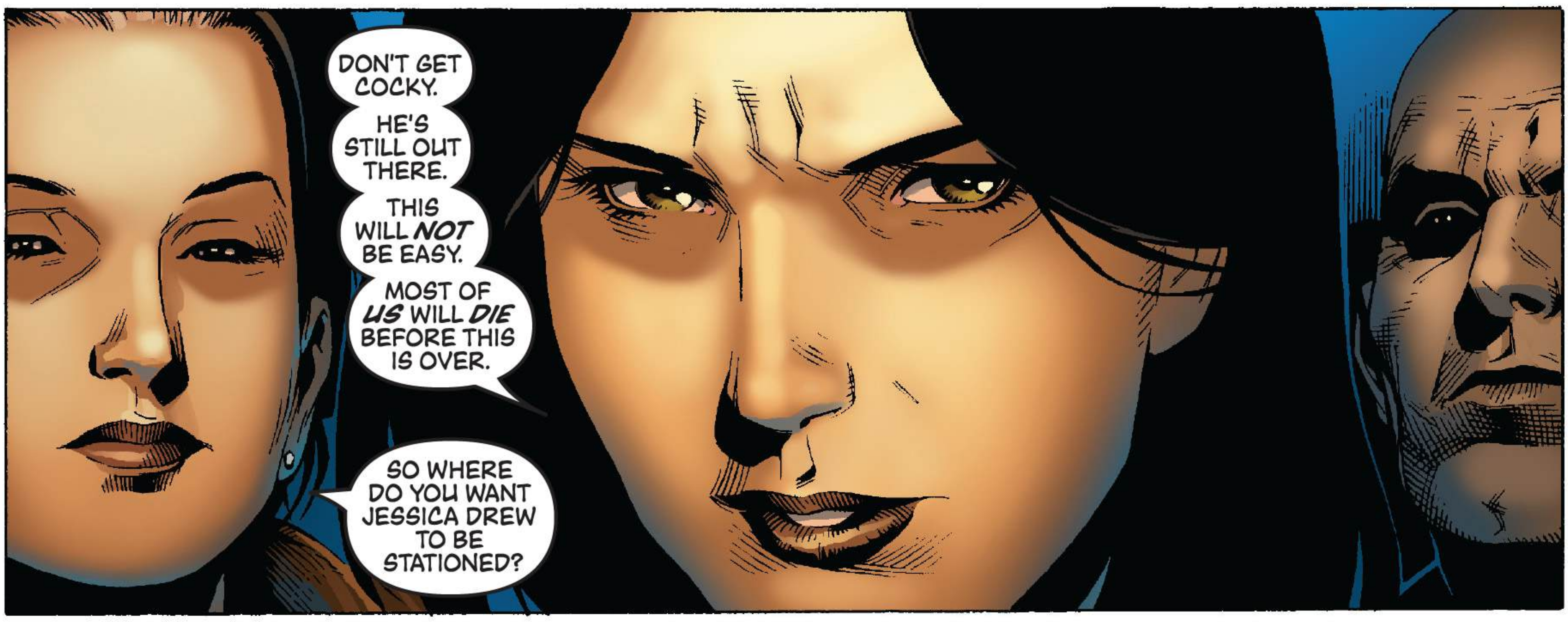

FOR THE GLORY.

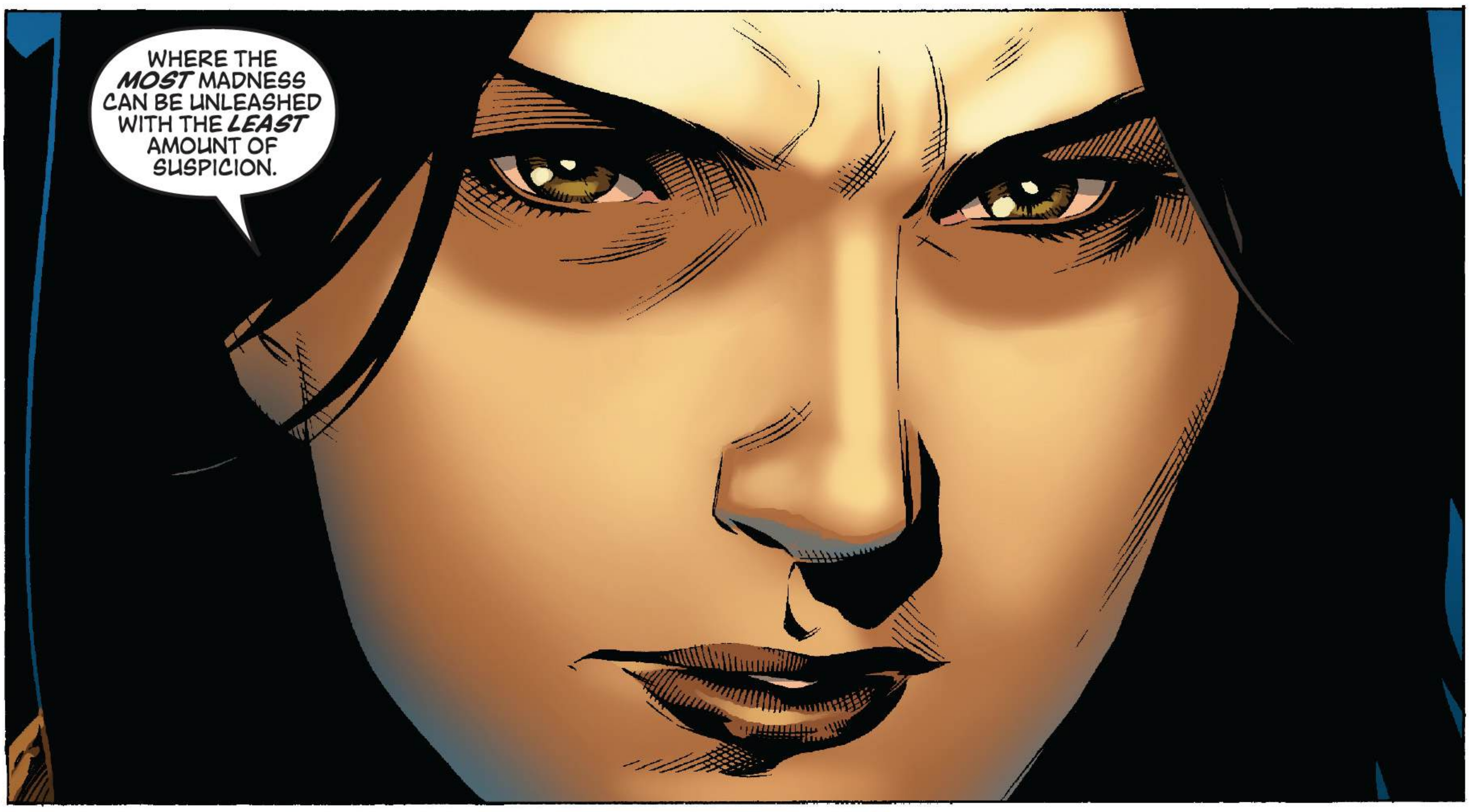
NEW YORK CITY
WEEKS LATER
OKAY, LET'S TALK ABOUT IT NOW.
HOW DO WE GET JESSICA DREW BACK INTO S.H.I.E.L.D. WITHOUT SENDING UP A RED FLAG?
FOGGER SHIPPING
RED FLAG MEANS?
WITHOUT CASTING SUSPICION.
YOU SHOULD KNOW MORE ENGLISH COLLOQUIALISMS BY NOW.
I'M WORKING ON IT. IT'S BEEN ALL OF TWO DAYS I'M LIKE THIS...
HERE'S HOW IT IS RIGHT NOW.
THERE ARE EXACTLY TWO AGENTS IN CHARGE OF THE WHITE CODE S.H.I.E.L.D. PERSONNEL SECURITY DATABASES.
TWO. THAT'S IT.
AND WE ALREADY HAVE SWITCHED ONE OF THEM OUT FOR ONE OF OURS.
THAT'S ME.
HE WILL BE TASKED TO TEST YOU FOR REASSIGNMENT AND GREENLIGHT YOU.
YOU'LL GET IN AND BE ASSIGNED A GRUNT JOB. ONE THAT WE PICK. I'LL PERSONALLY RECOMMEND YOU.
AND THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING.
ON YOUR COMMAND WE'LL HAVE DOZENS OF AGENTS IN HYDRA AND S.H.I.E.L.D. SWITCHED OUT AND READY TO GO.
THE WORD IS GIVEN.

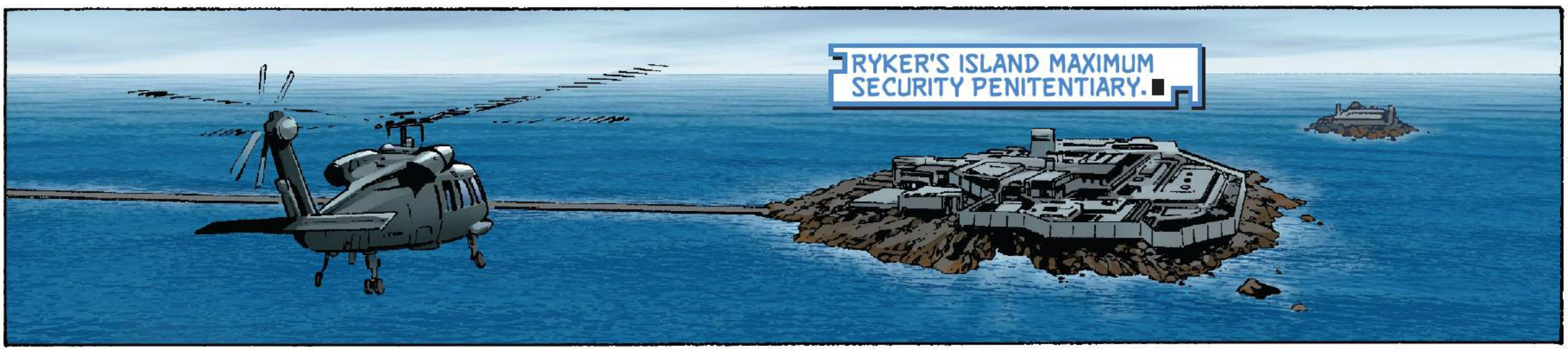

BUT WE STICK TO THE FIRST WAVE PLANS.
THREE TARGETS.
THE VIBRANIUM MINES, THE MUTANT POPULATION GROWTH PROBLEM, AND SUPER-POWERED COMMUNITY.
VIBRANIUM CAN BE USED TO MAKE WEAPONS THE EMPIRE CAN'T FIGHT BACK AGAINST.
IT'S THE ONLY THING ON THE PLANET WE CAN'T COMBAT.
SO WE TAKE IT AND WE DESTROY IT.
THAT MEANS THE SAVAGE LAND AND WAKANDA.
WE'LL LET OUR PEOPLE IN S.H.I.E.L.D. DO THAT.
YOU'LL CREATE WHAT WILL APPEAR TO BE A CORRUPT FACTION OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
DISGRUNTLED FURY LOYALISTS OUT FOR A PAYDAY.
MAYBE WE'LL EVEN LET THEM GET CAUGHT.
LET EVERYONE START POINTING FINGERS AT EACH OTHER.
FURY IS OUT. THIS NEW GIRL MARIA HILL IS IN.
NO ONE KNOWS OR CARES ABOUT HER. WE'LL SET HER UP TO TAKE THE FALL.
SHE MIGHT AS WELL CHANGE HER NAME TO *PATSY* FOR WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO DO TO HER.
THE MUTANT POPULATION IS A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM. THERE'S JUST TOO *MANY* OF THEM.
NOW THEY HAVE THEIR OWN *ISLAND*. *THEY* HAVE REAL ESTATE.
THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM THAT IF *SOMETHING* ISN'T DONE TO THIN THE HERD... THIS MIGHT ALL BE FOR NOTHING.
A FIGHT AGAINST AN *ARMY* OF EARTH'S MUTANTS WE *CANNOT* WIN.
AND THE MORE MUTANTS THERE ARE... THE MORE CHANCE OF ONE OF THEM GAINING A POWER THAT SPECIFICALLY *OUTS* US.
THE ONLY THING FOR US TO WORK WITH ON *THIS* FRONT IS THE UNBELIEVABLE *RACISM* THE HUMAN RACE HAS TOWARDS THEM.
THE HUMANS HATE MUTANTS BECAUSE THEY KNOW THEY MAKE HUMANS ALMOST INSTANTLY EXTINCT.
YES. OBVIOUSLY.
BUT THE HATE CRIMES. THE RACISM. WE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO HEAT THAT UP MORE.
GET THEM TO START FIGHTING EACH OTHER.
THE MORE CASUALTIES, THE BETTER FOR US.
AND THAT GOES *DOUBLE* FOR THE SUPER-POWERED HUMAN POPULATION.
WE HAVE TO START AT THE TOP OF THE LIST AND START TAKING OUT THE BIGGER GUNS ONE AT A TIME.
I'M TALKING ABOUT HUMANS AND MUTANTS LIKE DOCTOR STRANGE, DOCTOR DOOM, NAMOR, THE SCARLET WITCH, HERCULES...
WE GOT LUCKY WITH THOR DYING.
YES.
EXCEPT THAT MAKES WANDA MAXIMOFF EVEN MORE OF A CONCERN.
AND REED RICHARDS AND THAT #$%^ TONY STARK.
WE SHOULD KILL THEM NOW.
I CAN *BE* SUE STORM.
I CAN KILL RICHARDS IN HIS *OWN BED*.
TONIGHT.

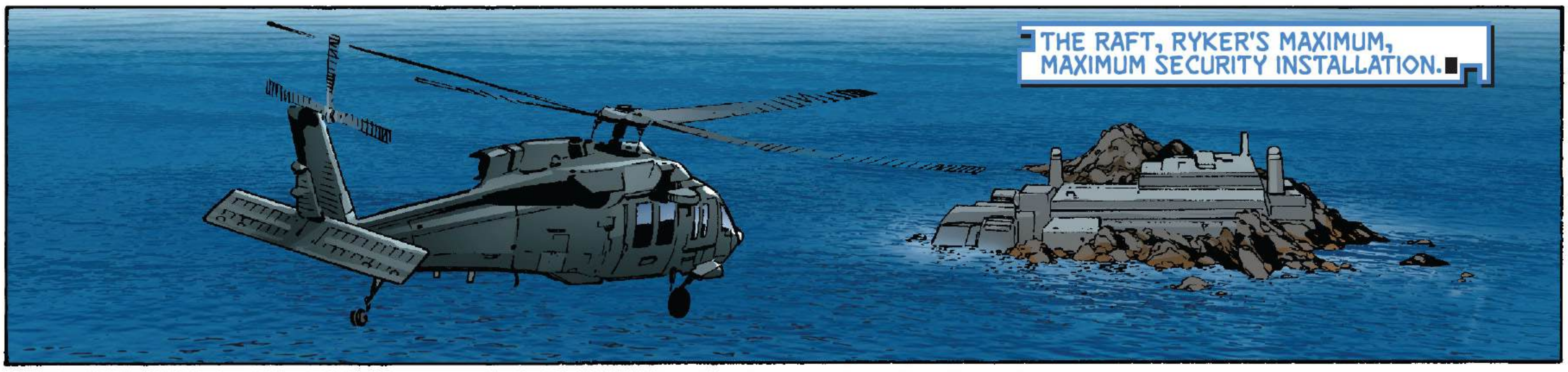

NO. NO.
THOSE TWO...
THEY ANSWER FOR THEIR CRIMES.
AND THEY DO SO ON A SKRULL *WORLD.*
AFTER-- AFTER THEY WATCH THEIR PLANET FALL.
THEN *THEY* ARE *PUNISHED.*
AND *THEN* THEY ARE KILLED.
IN THE THRONE CITY OF GALAX.
I UNDERSTAND.

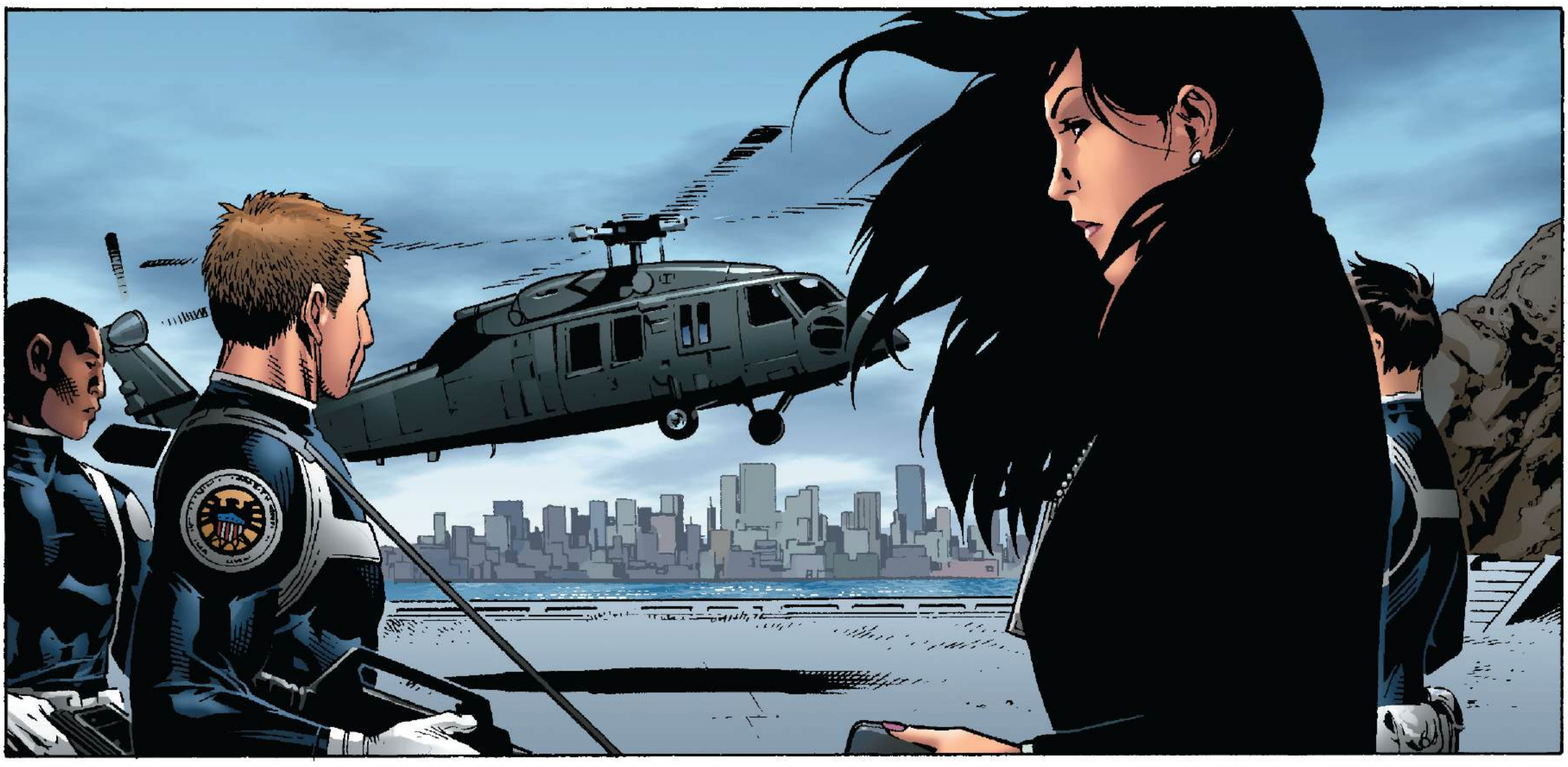

BUT FOR NOW--FOR NOW WE WILL ENJOY WATCHING THEM DO AS MUCH DAMAGE TO THEMSELVES AS WE CAN POSSIBLY HELP THEM DO.
FEED THEIR ALREADY INHERENT MISTRUST, PARANOIA, HATRED, RACISM...
THAT *WILL* BE FUN.
I TELL YOU THOUGH, IF FURY WAS STILL RUNNING THE SHOW, THIS WOULDN'T BE HALF AS EASY.

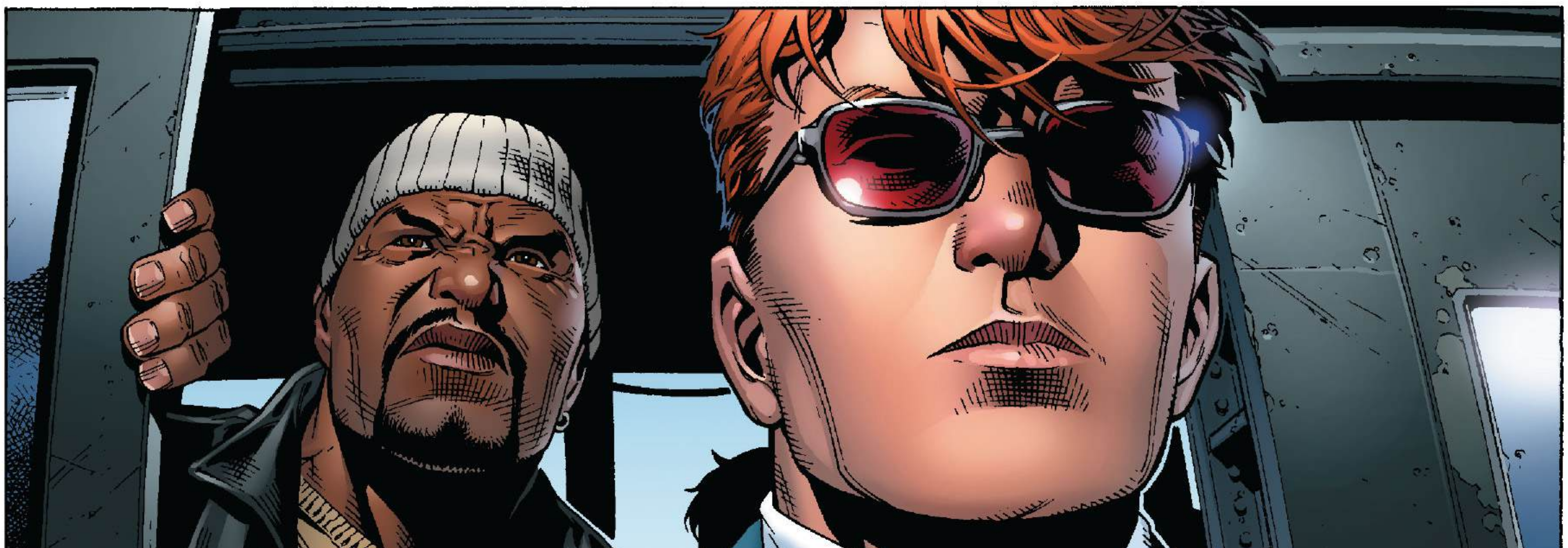

DON'T GET COCKY.
HE'S STILL OUT THERE.
THIS WILL *NOT* BE EASY.
MOST OF *US* WILL *DIE* BEFORE THIS IS OVER.
SO WHERE DO YOU WANT JESSICA DREW TO BE STATIONED?

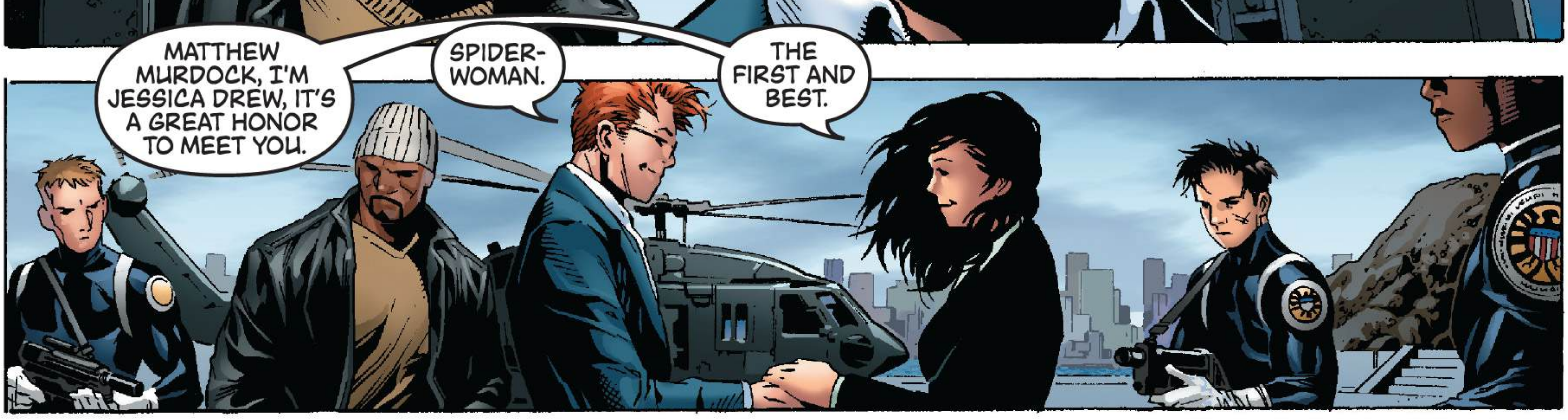

WHERE THE *MOST* MADNESS CAN BE UNLEASHED WITH THE *LEAST* AMOUNT OF SUSPICION.


RYKER'S ISLAND MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY.


THE RAFT, RYKER'S MAXIMUM, MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTALLATION.






MATTHEW MURDOCK, I'M JESSICA DREW, IT'S A GREAT HONOR TO MEET YOU.
SPIDER-WOMAN.
THE FIRST AND BEST.

"SO, MISS DREW, ON A SCALE OF ONE TO TEN, HOW DID IT GO?"
"MAX DILLON..."
"ELECTRO."
"...DID *EXACTLY* WHAT HE WAS HIRED TO DO."
"YEAH, IT WAS A SHOW. SAW IT ON THEIR INTERNET."
"FIFTY-SOME POWERED CRIMINALS RUNNING LOOSE IN THE WORLD.
"DOZENS OF DEAD S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS.
"DOZENS MORE WE CAN EASILY REPLACE IN THEIR HOSPITAL BEDS.
"SILVER SAMURAI IS OFF TO JAPAN, KARL LYKOS IS OFF TO THE SAVAGE LAND.
"AND A POTENTIALLY CORRUPT S.H.I.E.L.D. IS TO BLAME."
"I SMELL A *BUT* COMING..."

"BUT I THINK WE ACCIDENTALLY PUT THE AVENGERS BACK TOGETHER."

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCIENCE CENTER, HANK PYM'S LABORATORY
REALLY?
OH YES.
AND WE CAN ADD ANOTHER NAME TO THE *"BIG GUN TROUBLE"* LIST. THE SENTRY.
THEY DIDN'T EVEN ***CALL ME!***
YOU WEREN'T THERE.
HANK PYM WAS A ***FOUNDING MEMBER*** OF THE AVENGERS.
YOU WEREN'T THERE FOR THIS. THESE ARE THE NEW AVENGERS.
THEY ***ALWAYS*** TREATED HANK LIKE CRAP.
WHO ASKED YOU TO JOIN?
CAPTAIN AMERICA HIMSELF.
FOR THE GLORY I COULD HAVE KILLED HIM RIGHT THERE.
OKAY, SO, THEY INVITED YOU AND YOU SAID...
I SAID I'D ***THINK*** ABOUT IT.
YOU ***HAVE*** TO DO IT.
I KNOW.
I'LL BE LIVING IN TONY STARK'S HOUSE. MY EYES RIGHT ON HIM.
IT'S PROBABLY THE ONLY WAY WE'LL GET A CHANCE TO CRACK HIS TECHNOLOGY.
THIS IS A SIGN.
IT IS.
DOES MADAME HYDRA KNOW?
I'M MEETING HER IN AN HOUR.

"I'M SURE SHE'LL FIND SOME WAY TO CONGRATULATE HERSELF FOR IT."
YOU PROMISE YOU GUYS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT HAPPENED ON THE RAFT?
THAT WAS NOT US.
HRISTINE'S
CAUSE I ALMOST DIED LAST NIGHT--THREE DIFFERENT TIMES....
IF WE WANTED TO KILL YOU--
NICE. THANKS.
THIS NEW SITUATION IS *VERY* INTERESTING.
I'M GOING TO BE AN AVENGER. WHO WOULD'A THOUGHT?
SAME DEAL AS BEFORE?
UH UH.
NO. NO.
THIS IS GOING TO *COST* YOU.
THIS IS AN *ENTIRELY* DIFFERENT SITUATION.
YOU WANT ME TO REPORT BACK TO YOU ON THIS *AND* ON S.H.I.E.L.D.?
THAT'S GOING TO COST YOU.
ALL RIGHT, HOW MUCH?
ENOUGH SO WHEN THIS IS DONE, IF I'M STILL ALIVE... I CAN FORGET ALL ABOUT YOU... IN STYLE.
THIS IS HYDRA.
YOUR FATHER. YOUR MOTHER. YOU AT ONE TIME... ALL HYDRA.
I WAS HOPING BY THIS TIME IN OUR RELATIONSHIP... BRIBERY AND THREATS WOULD BE REPLACED BY DEDICATION AND DEVOTION.
SPARE ME.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THEM AND I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU.
YOU GOT ME WHERE YOU WANT ME. I HAVE YOU WHERE I WANT YOU.
JUST *PAY* ME.

"I'LL BE YOUR SPIDER-WOMAN."
ALL RIGHT.
LOOKS LIKE I'M A SUPER HERO AGAIN.
--AND HAWKEYE'S GOT HIS ARROW OUT AND HE'S POINTING IT RIGHT AT WONDER MAN'S BUTT.
AND HE SAYS *"YOU TAKE ONE MORE STEP TOWARDS THAT SHOWER AND I SWEAR TO GOD..."*
AND THEN WANDA (THE SCARLET WITCH)--SHE'S WALKING BY AND SHE DOES ONE OF HER HEXES AND TURNS HIS BOW INTO PUDDING.
IS *THAT* WHAT THAT WAS?
ALL THESE YEARS I NEVER KNEW HOW THE CHOCOLATE PUDDING GOT INTO THE BATHROOM.
WHAT DID YOU *THINK* IT WAS, JARVIS?
WITH THIS GROUP, YOU NEVER KNOW...
WHERE *IS* WANDA MAXIMOFF?
I'M SORRY...
SHOULD-- SHOULD I HAVE NOT ASKED THAT?

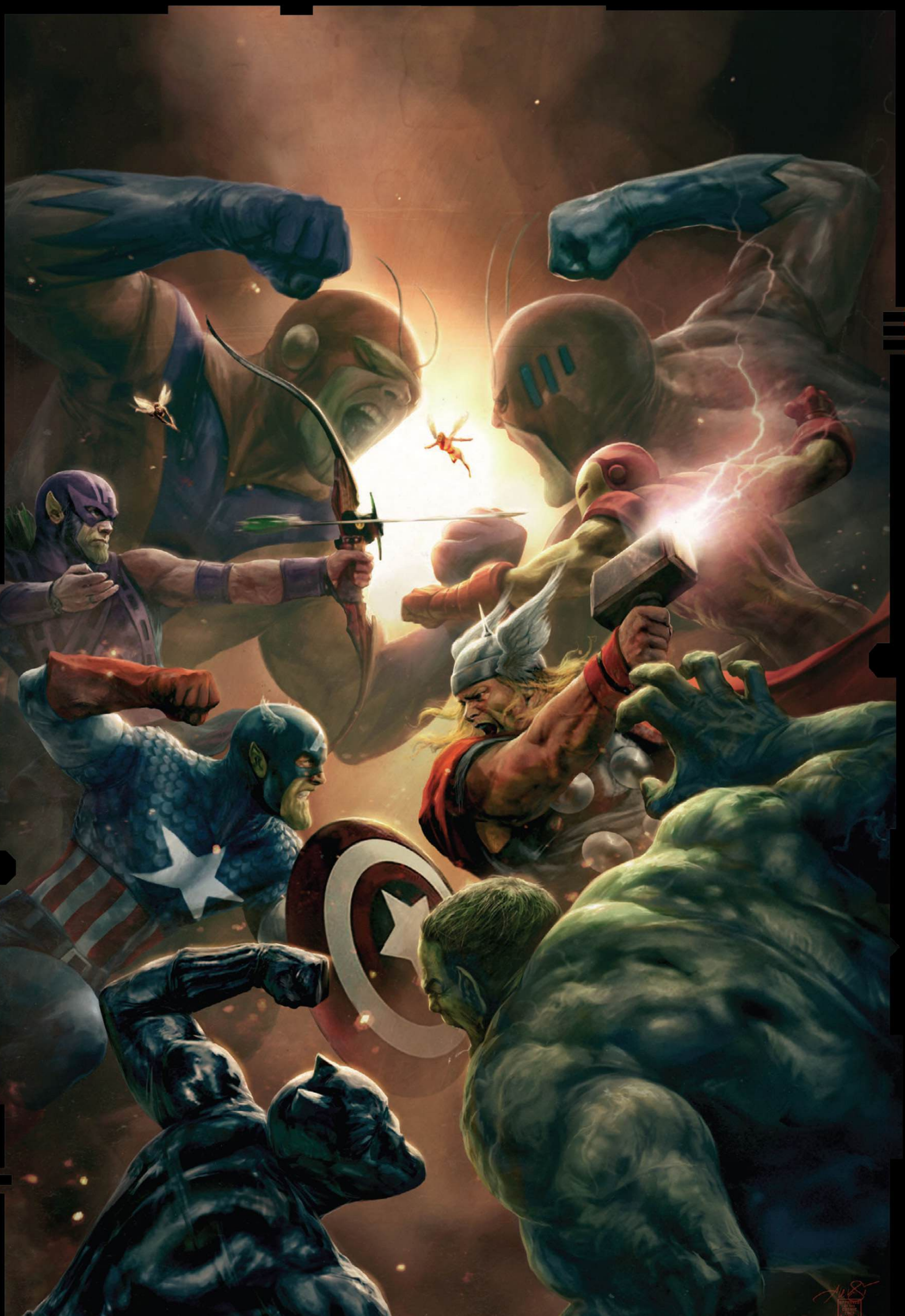
SHE, UM, SHE HAD A BREAK-DOWN.
THAT DAY AT THE MANSION. WHEN IT ALL WENT TO HELL... THAT WAS HER.
THAT WAS *HER?*
OH MAN.
WELL, WHEN YOUR FATHER'S MAGNETO...
SHE'S NOT A BAD PERSON, LOGAN, SHE'S A *SICK* PERSON.
SORRY I--
YEAH, WITH A TERRORIST FOR A DAD, STARK. I'M SURE IT DOES A NUMBER ON A KID.
IT'S OKAY. YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
IS SHE OKAY?
I HOPE SO. SHE'S WITH HER FAMILY NOW.
SHE'S WITH *MAGNETO?*
IT'S HER FAMILY.
WELL, I'M SURE AIN'T NOTHING BAD WILL COME A THAT.

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.
FLOATING WORLD HEADQUARTERS OF THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE. PRESENT LOCATION: 1000 FEET OVER LANGLEY, WEST VIRGINIA
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, DIRECTOR HILL?
YES, AGENT DREW... I'M DYING TO KNOW... WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING AN AVENGER?
WELL, MS. HILL, OTHER THAN MYSTERIOUS PEOPLE ALWAYS TRYING TO *KILL* YOU, IT'S PRETTY GOOD.
AN AVENGER NOW.
YES, MA'AM.
WHEN IS THE LAST TIME YOU SPOKE TO THE WOMAN WE CALL MADAME HYDRA?
YOU KNOW, THE TERRORIST.
THAT'S IN MY FILE.
HOW UP TO DATE *IS* THAT FILE. DOES IT INCLUDE... *RECENTLY?*
MA'AM?
I-I WON'T LIE TO YOU-- I GET SQUIRRELY HAVING EX-TERRORISTS ON THIS SHIP.
YOU *INVITED* ME HERE.
YOU MAKE ME NERVOUS. *MY* SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING ABOUT YOU.
WELL, YOUR PREDECESSOR HAD A GREAT DEAL OF *RESPECT* FOR ME AND MY JOURNEY FROM PARENTS WHO WERE HYDRA SCIENTISTS TO NOW...
FURY DOESN'T WORK HERE ANYMORE.
CLEARLY.
DISMISSED.

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO MAKE YOU, LET'S SAY, ***LESS*** SUSPICIOUS OF ME?
NO.
DISMISSED.
YOU KNOW...
I BET A LOT MORE PEOPLE DON'T TRUST ***YOU*** THAN DON'T TRUST ***ME.***
IN FACT, I'D BE A WHOLE LOT MORE WORRIED BY THE FACT THAT MOST OF THIS SHIP AND MOST OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AND THOSE RENEGADE AGENTS WE FOUND IN THE SAVAGE LAND...
...HATE YOUR GUTS.
DISMISSED.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY WEARING AN EYEPATCH.
GLEE GLEE
YES.
WHERE ARE YOU?
WHY AREN'T YOU HERE?

AVENGERS TOWER.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE X-MEN ARE HERE AND WE'RE GOING TO GENOSHA AND CONFRONT THE WANDA MAXIMOFF SITUATION.
SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL AGAIN.
CONFRONT HOW?
HALF OF THEM WANT TO KILL HER, HALF OF THEM WANT TO SAVE HER.
YOU KILL HER.
EVEN IF IT JEOPARDIZES... THINGS?
IT WON'T. SHE KILLED HANK PYM'S FRIENDS.
YOU SNAP.
YOU KILL HER.
AFTER, WE'LL SWITCH YOU OUT.

GENOSHA. HOURS LATER.



NEW AVENGERS #43

THE SAVAGE LAND.
OH, MAN. OKAY...
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T *WANT* YOU TO BE THE REAL CAPTAIN AMERICA.
AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU DON'T MAKE ME A LITTLE *NERVOUS* LIKE THE REAL CAPTAIN AMERICA.
BUT THE REAL CAPTAIN AMERICA *DIED.*
HE WAS *SHOT.*
ON T.V.
WE *ALL* SAW IT.
HE'S GONE.
SO, YOU, ALTHOUGH YOU'RE TOTALLY ROCKING THE COSTUME... YOU ARE *NOT* HIM.
RRAARRRR!
STOP YOUR TALKING, SKRULL. I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD YOU SAY.
I'M NOT HERE TO TALK!
KA-ZAR, KING OF THE SAVAGE LAND. I NEED A WAY BACK TO THE MAINLAND.
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE UNITED STATES.
CAPTAIN AMERICA IS *DEAD.*
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
STOP WHERE YOU ARE.

KTANG
AGH!
HEADS UP!
RRARFGHH!
WHOA, WHOA AND WHOA...
THWAP
THWAP

CRACK
AGH!
JEEZ!
THWAP
FUMP
WELL, YOU *FIGHT* LIKE CAP.
RRRRR!
CRACK

THIS IS MY HOME! MY HOME! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?! DO YOU?
HOLD HIM STILL!
WHOA, WHOA AND WHOA, I SAID!
NO!
NO ONE IS LISTENING TO ME!
HHUURRGGHH!
RRR!
AFTER ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH TO GET BACK TO EARTH, THE HELL IF I'M GOING TO LET THE LIKES OF--
PTUNK

FFTT
THUP
MATUMBA SALANA!
NUH...
FUMP

I-I AM CAPTAIN AMERICA.
I AM A HUMAN.
I AM A MALE.
I AM THE SUPER-SOLDIER.
I-I AM AN *AVENGER.*

I KNEW IT! YOU--YOU--
WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US?!
DON'T YOU PRETEND YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM!
I'M *NOT!*
YOU *ALL* ARE!
FASMUNI!
I-I AM CAPTAIN AMERICA.
I'M NOT *ONE OF THEM.*
WELL, WE'LL FIND OUT, WON'T WE?
I-I AM A... HUMAN.
SNIKT
AGH!
STILL PINK.
YEAH. AND NOW IT'S BLEEDING AND NUMB. THANKS A TON!
I'M *NOT* ONE OF THEM.
WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE, SKRULL?
TELL US OR WE'LL KILL YOU. CAN'T PUT IT ANY CLEARER THAN THAT.
"WHAT IS YOUR NAME, SOLDIER?"

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. SKRULL WORLD SATRIANI
PITT'O NILI, MY QUEEN.
DOES MY HUMAN FORM DISGUST YOU?
YOUR EXCELLENCE?
IT SICKENS *ME.* AND YOU ***VOLUNTEER*** TO TAKE A FORM LIKE THIS? FOR THE REST OF YOUR TIME?
YES, MA'AM.
WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS, SOLDIER?
MY FAMILY WAS ON PHALAX SIX. THEY ARE ALL DEAD NOW.
YOU UNDERSTAND... THIS IS A SUICIDE MISSION. YOU WILL NOT COME HOME.
I UNDERSTAND.
YOU WILL NEVER SHIFT BACK TO THIS FORM.
I UNDERSTAND.
YOU WILL NOT REMEMBER YOUR BIRTH NAME.
I UNDERSTAND.
ALL OF YOU, KNOW THIS.

ALL OF YOU HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR BATTLE!
ALL OF YOU HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO SHIFT YOURSELVES IN PURSUIT OF THAT WHICH WE KNOW IS OURS!
AND ALL OF YOU HAVE MY LOVE AND RESPECT!
BUT ONLY A FEW HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING!
PITT'O NIL!! THE ENTIRE EMPIRE WORSHIPS AND ADORES YOU.
AS I DO THEM, MY QUEEN.
PITT'O NIL!! LET YOUR NAME BE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF WORLDS.
LET ALL WHO READ IT KNOW THE SIGHT!
LET ALL WHO HEAR IT KNOW THE SOUND OF A HERO'S NAME!

AAGGH!

The blood of a human.
The blood of a male.
The blood of Steven Rogers.
The blood of Captain America.
The blood of an agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.
The blood of a mighty Avenger.
A

I am now a human.
I am a male.
I am Steven Rogers.
I am Captain America.
Agent of--
NO!
NO, I'M-- I'M HUMAN! I'M PINK!
NNAGGH!
SETTLE.
PRIESTESS OF THE MIND. WE NEED YOUR HELP.
NOOO!
SLEEP.
THE ADJUSTMENT CAN BE JARRING.
HE'LL BE FINE ONCE WE FILL HIS MIND WITH HIS HUMAN IDENTITY.
LET'S HOPE.

SKRULLWORLD TARNAX X
BE AT PEACE, BRAVE SOLDIER.
LET HIS MIND BECOME YOURS.
EXCUSE MY IGNORANCE, MY QUEEN.
HOW DOES THE PRIESTESS *HAVE* THE MEMORIES OF THIS CAPTAIN AMERICA HUMAN?
I DON'T HAVE THEM ALL. I HAVE TONY STARK'S MEMORIES AND I HAVE REED RICHARDS'... BECAUSE OF OUR RESEARCH.
AND THEN I HAVE OUR ARCHIVES.
FROM THERE I CAN MAKE HIS MIND BELIEVE IT HAS LIVED THIS HUMAN'S LIFE.
I CAN MAKE HIS MIND *WANT* TO BELIEVE IT.
WHAT MUST THAT BE *LIKE?*
OPEN YOUR MIND AND I WILL SHOW YOU ALL.
OH MY...
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE BEEN LED INTO AN AMBUSH.
WHEN WAS THIS?

THIS IS THE TIME DURING OUR CIVIL WAR...
OKAY, AVENGERS-- YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
WHEN THE AVENGERS AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR WERE CAPTURED BY OUR ARMADA.
SORRY, BOYS, BUT AN AMBUSH THAT'S EXPECTED RARELY WORKS!
WHEN THE SKRULLS ZABYK AND MYRN DETONATED THE GENETIC "HYPERWAVE BOMB".
Y-YOUR SWORD CUT THROUGH MY BLASTER! WHAT SORT OF MAGIC IS THIS?!
PRETTY GOOD MAGIC, I'D SAY!
HRMPF! THIS BATTLE IS TOO EASILY WON FOR THE SON OF ZEUS!!
HEADS UP EVERYBODY! IT'S--
--THE SHE-HULK?!
THE AVENGERS?!
THERE.
I BELIEVE THIS IS THE POINT WHERE WE CAN GENERATE THE NEW MEMORIES WE NEED.

IT'S AT THIS POINT THAT THE AVENGERS AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR COMBINED THEIR STRENGTH AND ESCAPED FROM THE EMPIRE.
BUT OUR CAPTAIN AMERICA WILL REMEMBER IT DIFFERENTLY.
INCOMING!
AAGGHH!
OH GOD!
CRACK
DON'T GIVE UP!
KEEP FIGHTING, PEOPLE!
BY THE FIRE OF HADES, I WILL-- AAAAGGHH!
THE WASP IS DEAD! CAP, THE WASP IS--

HUMAN. WE NEED ACCESS TO YOUR TONY STARK'S MAINFRAME.
WELL, YOU CAN GO STRAIGHT TO HELL, YOU GREEN PIECE OF--
CRACK
AGAIN. WE NEED ACCESS TO THE HELICARRIER VEHICLE'S SECURITY.
YEAH? DROP D--
SMACK
AND THAT'S HOW OUR CAPTAIN AMERICA WILL BELIEVE HE WAS CAPTURED AND HELD BY THE SKRULL EMPIRE.

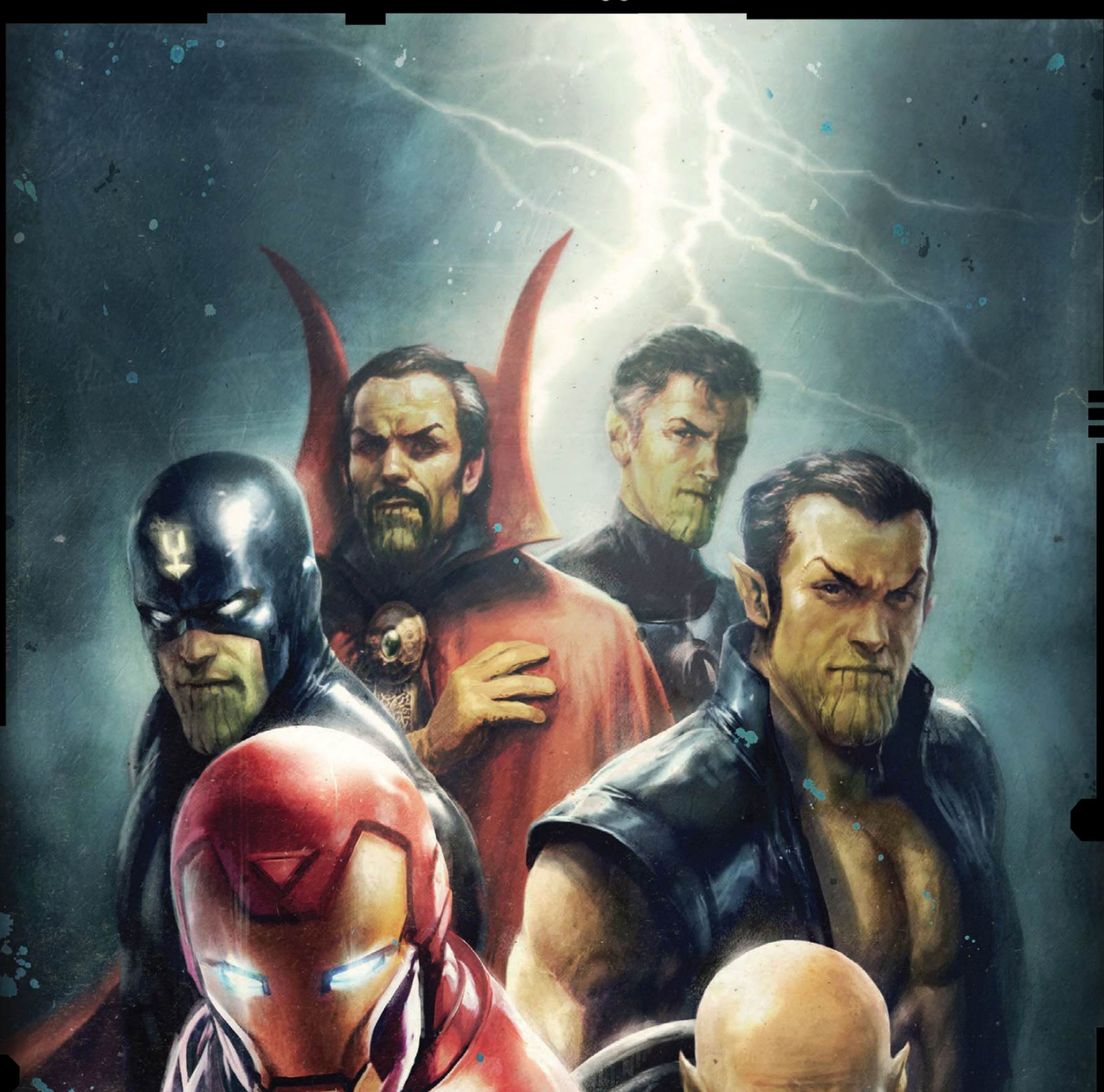
IF I MAY... WHY GO TO SUCH EFFORT TO STRIKE AT THEM WITH SUCH A WIDE DECEPTION OF--?
WHY?
HOW MANY *MORE* TIMES DO YOU NEED TO SEE ONE OF *THESE* STANDING IN THE WAY OF WHAT'S OURS?
YOUR EXCELLENCE, I WAS ONLY ASKING, WHY GO TO SUCH A--
BECAUSE A PHYSICAL DEFEAT MEANS *NOTHING* TO THEM.
THEY DEFY DEATH. THEY *DEFY* DEFEAT.
YOU BEAT THEM DOWN, THEY RISE UP. YOU KILL THEM, THEY LIVE ON IN SPIRIT.
SO TO *TRULY* DEFEAT THEM YOU DESTROY THEM FROM *THE INSIDE OUT.*
YOU MAKE THEM DOUBT *THEMSELVES.* THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.
MAKE THEM LOSE SIGHT OF THEMSELVES TO THE POINT THAT THEY DON'T KNOW *WHAT* TO STRIKE BACK *AT.*
THEN... YOU *STRIKE.*
YOU DAMAGE THEM SO COMPLETELY THAT EVEN IF *THE ENTIRE EMPIRE LOST* THIS INITIATIVE--
--AND WE *WON'T*--
--BUT EVEN IF WE DID, THE SHOCKWAVE OF DAMAGE WILL STAY WITH THEM *FOREVER.*
THAT'S WHY WE GO TO THIS TROUBLE.
THAT'S WHY WE FIGHT WITH EVERY WEAPON WE HAVE.
BECAUSE WE *HAVE* TO.
I'LL BE LEAVING FOR EARTH WITHIN THE CYCLE.
PUT OUR *"CAPTAIN AMERICA"* WITH THE REST OF OUR *"HEROES."*
MY WORD WILL BE GIVEN AND THEN YOU WILL WAKE THEM.

UGH...
CAPTAIN. WAKE UP.
WHERE...?
CAPTAIN AMERICA. CAN YOU HEAR ME? DON'T TALK.
MY NAME IS EMMA FROST. I'M A PSYCHIC MUTANT.
I'M TRYING TO WAKE EVERYBODY UP. LOOK AT ME IF YOU CAN HEAR MY THOUGHTS.
GOOD. THERE'S ONLY FIVE CREW MEMBERS.
ACCORDING TO THEIR THOUGHTS, WE'RE BEING TAKEN TO THE SKRULL ARMADA.
THEY HAVE KIDNAPPED US AND ARE TRANSPORTING US TO A PRISON PLANET OF SOME KIND SO THEY CAN COME BACK TO EARTH AND TRY TO INVADE.
OKAY, HOLD ON, OKAY.
EVERY ONE OF US IS AWAKE.
MY NAME IS JEAN GREY, CAP. I'M AN X-MAN. WE'VE MET A BUNCH OF TIMES.
AT THE COUNT OF THREE. EVERYONE.
I AM GOING TO BREAK THE MECHANISM OF THE MACHINE THAT IS HOLDING US IN STASIS, AND WE MAKE A RUN FOR THE COCKPIT.
OKAY. COUNT OF THREE.
TWO.
ONE.

ANYONE ELSE ALL KINDS OF PISSED OFF?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WE'RE HEADED BACK TO EARTH!
WELL, GOOD. BECAUSE I ACTUALLY DON'T REMEMBER *LEAVING* EARTH--
WE'RE PRISONERS OF WAR.
NOT FOR LONG.
YO, MAN, ANY CHANCE YOU CAN DROP ME OFF IN HARLEM?
I CAN'T--*AAARR!* I CAN'T CONTROL THE SHIP--IT'S LOCKED.
LET ME SEE IF I CAN HELP.
I SHALL EXIT THE CRAFT AND LAND US SAFELY.
PROBLEM IS, THOR, IF YOU OPEN THE DOOR WHEN WE'RE MOVING THIS FAST YOU'LL KILL HALF THE PEOPLE ON BOARD. JUST F.Y.I...
HOLD ONTO YOUR--

IS THAT--?
SAVAGE LAND. YEP.
JEAN, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO?
AND WE'RE COMING IN A TAD RAPIDLY, DON'T YA THINK?
I'M TRYING. IT'S AN AWFULLY BIG--
MRS. RICHARDS, PREPARE A FORCE-FIELD ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE SHIP.
THOR, BRACE THE BACK OF THE SHIP FROM THE INSIDE AND LET'S TRY TO GUIDE IT DOWN GENTLY.
HOLD ON TO SOMETHIN'!
OH, MAN...
REALLY.
NOT THE WAY I WANT TO GO OUT!
WE WILL BE SAFE, YOUNG HERO. OUR POWER IS GREAT.

YEAH. AND NOW IT'S BLEEDING AND NUMB. THANKS A TON!
I'M NOT ONE OF THEM.
WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE, SKRULL?
TELL US OR WE'LL KILL YOU. CAN'T PUT IT ANY CLEARER THAN THAT.
I-I AM A... HUMAN.
COUNT OF THREE, ALIEN. WHO ARE YOU AND WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
I-I AM A... HUMAN.
RIGHT.
CHUCK
WHOA! WHY DID YOU--?!
BECAUSE A THREAT IS A THREAT AND A LIAR IS A LIAR AND I DON'T HAVE TIME--
BUT YOU--
THIS IS THE JUNGLE. NOT A MANHATTAN COFFEE--
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
HUH.
MACHINEGUN FIRE.
SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM THE CITADEL.
I SO BADLY WANT TO GO HOME.
WE'RE MOVING OUT. FANTANA MOOSOO.
WE'RE HEADING TOWARDS THE GUNFIRE?
YAY! THIS IS THE BEST DAY EVER!


APPROVED BY THE COSMIC AUTHO
AFTER CHEUNG

NEW AVENGERS #44

YEARS AGO
ARMOR.
GOOD MORNING, MISTER STARK.
ENVIRONMENT SCAN.
ATMOSPHERE, CONTENT, OR ATTENDANCE?
ATTENDANCE.
READING FIVE HUMANOID LIFE FORMS 100 FEET AHEAD.
WORLD BEST ACTION FIGURE
EVERYONE'S HERE.
SECURING IDENTITY FILES NOW.
THANK YOU.
ARMOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS
STEPHEN STRANGE
OCCUPATION: SORCERER SUPREME
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED
ARMOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS
REED RICHARDS
ALIAS: MISTER FANTASTIC
OCCUPATION: SCIENTIST, ADVENTURER
GROUP AFFILIATION: FANTASTIC FOUR
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED
GENTLEMEN...
ARMOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS
CHARLES FRANCIS XAVIER
OCCUPATION: MUTANT LEADER
GROUP AFFILIATION: X-MEN
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED
ARMOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS
BLACKAGAR BOLTAGON
ALIAS: BLACK BOLT
OCCUPATION: MONARCH OF THE INHUMANS
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED
HOW IS IT THAT I CAN GET HERE PROMPTLY, BUT YOU, WITH ALL YOUR TOYS, CAN NEVER SEEM TO?
SORRY, NAMOR, I NEED THAT EXTRA BIT OF TIME TO PUT ON SOME PANTS.
YOU WOULD *HAVE* TO.
ARMOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS
PRINCE NAMOR
ALIAS: SUB-MARINER
OCCUPATION: MONARCH
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED
THANK YOU FOR COMING, TONY.
I KNOW IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE GATHERED LIKE THIS, BUT I NEEDED TO SPEAK WITH YOU ALL.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, CHARLES?
THE SKRULL SITUATION.
AGAIN?
NOT AGAIN.
BUT...
WE ARE TO BELIEVE THEY WILL RETALIATE, CORRECT?

IT'S THE SMART MONEY.
WHAT IF THEY ALREADY HAVE IS MY QUESTION.
DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION THAT THEY *MAY* HAVE--?!
I THINK OF OUR TIME THERE.
THEY CAPTURED US. BUT FOR HOW LONG?
COULD IT BE THAT ONE OF US WAS REPLACED? THAT ONE OR MORE OF US WAS SWITCHED OUT FOR ONE OF THEM?
I THOUGHT OF THAT TOO, OBVIOUSLY...
BUT I ASSUMED, CHARLES, WITH *YOUR* MUTANT PSYCHIC POWERS AND DOCTOR STRANGE'S ABILITIES AS MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS...
...PLUS OUR *TECH...*
I FIGURED WE HAD THAT COVERED.
UNLESS, EITHER OF *THEM* WERE SWITCHED...
WELL, OBVIOUSLY...
SO REALLY YOU DON'T KNOW WHO IS WHO OR WHAT IS WHAT.
NONE OF YOU KNOW *ANYTHING.*
TONY, YOUR ARMOR SCANS THE ROOM...
IT DID BEFORE I CAME IN HERE.
AS DID I.
I CAN CONJURE THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO. IT WILL SHOW US TRUTH.
AND, YES, ALL YOUR BRAIN PATTERNS READ CLEAN.
ALL THIS IS TRUE.
SO...?
SO THEY *KNOW* WE CAN DO THIS. *THIS* THEY KNOW.
SO WHAT IF THEY FOUND A WAY TO OVERCOME THIS OBSTACLE...
WHAT IF THEY HAVE FOUND A WAY TO WALK FREELY AMONG US?
WHAT IF THEY HAVE INFILTRATED US?
WHAT IF THEY SEEK REVENGE ON US FOR WHAT WE'VE DONE?
WHAT *WE'VE* DONE?
WHAT HAVE *WE* DONE?
WE DESTROYED THEIR THRONE CITY.
IN RETALIATION.
YES, YES, THIS IS-- *YES.*
I AM ASKING YOU, IF WE KNOW THEY *WANT* TO RETALIATE...
AND KNOWING THAT THEY KNOW WE ARE ABLE TO DETECT THEM...
HOW WOULD THEY GO ABOUT MAKING THEMSELVES *UNDETECTABLE* TO THOSE OF US WITH POWERS?
BECAUSE I BELIEVE THEY MAY ALREADY HAVE.

I MUST SAY, CHARLES. ONE COULD ARGUE THAT YOU'RE BEING RATHER PARANOID.
THEY TRIED TO START SOMETHING WITH US...AND FAILED.
THAT COULD BE THE END OF IT.
BUT IT WON'T BE.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE A KING TO A PEOPLE.
THE PRESSURE TO DELIVER THAT WHICH IS PROMISED. THAT WHICH HAS BEEN FORETOLD.
THEY WILL COME HERE. THEY WILL SACRIFICE THEMSELVES TO BRING VICTORY.
I AGREE.
THE QUESTION IS: HOW WILL THEY DO IT?
THEORETICALLY.
WELL, OKAY...
OKAY...
LET ME THINK...
IT'S AN INTERESTING CONUNDRUM.
THERE WAS THAT SUPER-SKRULL THAT HAD YOUR POWERS. THE POWERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
YES. BUT THAT WAS MANUFACTURED. IT'S A TRICK.
YOU'D NEED TO, ON A GENETIC LEVEL, ALTER ONE'S SELF.
YOU'D NEED TO BE ABLE TO HOLD THE ILLUSION OF FORM ON A MOLECULAR LEVEL FOR AS LONG AS IT WOULD TAKE.
SHAPE-SHIFTING NOT JUST COSMETICALLY, BUT GENETICALLY.
ONE WOULD HAVE TO BE ABLE TO GENETICALLY SHAPE-SHIFT AND THEN LOCK THE FORM.
BUT AFTER THAT ANY SHAPE-SHIFT, ANY CHANGE, WOULD THEN MAKE ONE DETECTABLE TO PEOPLE LIKE US.
INTERESTING. COULD THIS BE DONE?
ANYTHING CAN BE DONE. IT'S A MATTER OF--
STRANGE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I WILL CONJURE THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO. IT CAN BRING A LEVEL OF TRUST TO THIS ROOM.
AND THEN WE--
AND THEN WE--
UM.
I CAN'T SEEM TO DO IT.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU USED IT?
WE WERE... ON THE SKRULL SHIP AND WE--
HOW DID WE ESCAPE THE SKRULL EMPIRE?
WE--
UM--
I--
I THINK WE'RE STILL--
I THINK WE'RE STILL THERE.

NO.
NO, WE--
WE GOT ON A TRANSPORT SHIP AND WE--
EVERYONE STOP.
STOP TALKING.
I--
I DON'T HAVE MY POWERS.
WHAT DOES THIS *MEAN?*
WHAT DOES THIS *MEAN?*
ARMOR?
ARMOR?
CODE LEVEL SITMA FIVE.
ARMOR?
OH, MAN...
IT MEANS WE SHOULD GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
PLEASE DON'T DO THAT, KREE-SPAWN.
WHAT IS THIS? HOW HAVE YOU DONE THIS?
SIT DOWN AND CALM DOWN.
IS THIS *YOUR DOING?* HAVE YOU *BETRAYED* US?
SIT DOWN.
BY ALL THAT I HOLD DEAR, I PROMISE YOU, YOU AND *YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY WILL PAY FOR--*
THIS EXPERIMENT IS TERMINATED.

4

BY THE VISHANTI-- *NO!*
FACOOM
NOOO--!
ALL OF YOU, RUN!
GET UP AND RUN!
CRASH
AAGGHH!
HRRAAGH!
KOOM
NO.
FFSSAAAAAMM
FFSSAAAAAMM

PRIEST OF THE SCIENCE...PLEASE NOTE IN MY NAME. SESSION 21 IS TERMINATED.
NAME IT WHAT IT IS-- A FAILURE.
IT WAS *NOT* A FAILURE.
THE CLONEPOD HUMAN DUPLICATIONS ARE TERMINATED. NO PROGRESS WAS MADE.
MY APOLOGIES, PRIEST GALAN...
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO *NOW?*
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR, WARRIOR. YOUR ORDERS WERE CLEAR.
YOU ARE HONORABLY DISMISSED, GOOD WARRIOR. WE WILL CALL FOR YOU IN ANOTHER TIME.
PROGRESS *WAS* MADE, PRIEST GALAN. WE NOW KNOW THAT THE--
STOP TALKING.
FRY'LU, WHY DID YOUR MENTAL PROJECTIONS FAIL ON THE MINDS OF THE CLONED HUMANS?
YOU WERE TO KEEP THE ILLUSION OF THEIR ESCAPE FROM THE EMPIRE COMPLETE.
MY APOLOGIES, BUT THE HUMAN MIND--
THEY *CHOSE* NOT TO ACCEPT THE ILLUSION.
TRUTH AS TOLD, HOLDING THE ILLUSION FOR ALL *SIX* OF THEM MAY HAVE HAMPERED MY ABILITY TO KEEP THE *PRECISENESS* OF THE MENTAL SUGGEST--
WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?

MY KING.
I OFFER MY HUMBLEST, MOST SINCERE--
ONE WOULD GUESS THAT NO PROGRESS WAS MADE HERE.
WE WILL START THE CLONEPOD PROCESS AGAIN.
THAT YOU SHALL.
PROGRESS *WAS* MADE, YOUR HIGH--
DRO'GE! DO NOT SPEAK TO OUR KING OUT OF TURN!
SPEAK THAT WHICH YOU KNOW IS TRUE.
MY WORDS IN YOUR HONOR, SIR, THE CLONEPOD OF REED RICHARDS HAD SURMISED AN IDEA BY WHICH WE COULD PREVAIL.
THE INFORMATION FOR OUR SUCCESS IS IN HIS MIND.
BUT HE DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO COMMIT IT BEFORE THE ILLUSION FAILED US.
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOUR EXCELLENCE, IF I MAY...
WE DON'T NEED TO DUPLICATE THE ENTIRE GROUP OF HUMANS.
WE ONLY NEED WHAT IS IN THE MIND OF REED RICHARDS.
I UNDERSTAND *WHY* YOU WANT US TO INTERROGATE THE ENTIRE GROUP.
THESE ARE THE GREATEST HUMAN ENEMIES OF THE SKRULL EMPIRE AND THEY MUST BE PUNISHED...
BUT THESE THINGS--THEY ARE NOT *REAL.* THEY ARE SYNTHETIC DUPLICATIONS.
WE CAN KEEP DUPLICATING THEM AND TORTURING THEM OVER AND OVER FOR AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE...
WE CAN CREATE A REED RICHARDS CLONEPOD AND PUT IT IN YOUR CHAMBERS FOR YOU TO DO WITH AS YOU'D LIKE FOR AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE...
BUT...

BUT THE EMPIRE NEEDS *ANSWERS* THAT WE DO NOT HAVE AND WE NOW KNOW THAT THE ANSWER IS IN THIS MIND.
WITH RESPECT TO YOUR THRONE--THE ONLY WAY TO DO THAT IS TO TAKE THE CLONED ILLUSION OF SELF TO A DIFFERENT STAGE.
MAY WE PLEASE, WITH YOUR ORDER, MOVE TO A NEW AREA OF EXPERIMENTATION TOWARDS THIS GOAL.
IF THE MIND OF REED RICHARDS HOLDS THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE...
WHY CANNOT YOU, THE PRIEST OF THE MIND, TAKE IT *OUT* OF HIS MIND?
BLESSED BE YOUR NAME...
I SIMPLY AM NOT SMART ENOUGH IN THE AREAS OF THE SCIENCES TO UNDERSTAND THE THOUGHTS IT IS THINKING.
THEY ARE BEYOND MY LEARNINGS.
IT IS FRUSTRATING THAT WE KNOW SO MUCH MORE THAN THESE MUD-WALKERS...
...AND YET THE ONE THING WE DO NOT KNOW, *HE* KNOWS.
BUT ONCE THE PUZZLE IS SOLVED...
THE IRONY THAT IT WAS THE MIND OF *REED RICHARDS* THAT BROUGHT THE SKRULL EMPIRE THE EARTH IN ITS ENTIRETY...
...WILL BE A *LEGEND* THAT IS SPOKEN OF TILL THE *END OF DAYS.*

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, YOUNG PRIEST OF THE SCIENCES?
DRO'GE FENU EDU.
YOU ARE NOW THE *HEAD* PRIEST OF THE SCIENCE FOR THIS PROJECT.
THAT IS NOT NECESSARY, SIR, BUT IF IT IS YOUR WORD--
IT IS.
THEN IT IS MY HONOR TO MAKE IT SO.
MY APOLOGIES, GALAN.
YOU UNDERSTAND... YOU ARE ONE OF *HIS* MEN NOW.
YOU ARE *HIS* PICK.
HE'LL HAVE YOU BANISHED IF YOU FAIL.
WE'LL NEED SOMETHING NEW.

UGH...
CRACK
TELL THEM WHAT THEY ASKED AND YOU WILL LIVE. TELL THEM.
COFF
COFF
YOUR POWERS CAN'T HELP YOU HERE, HUMAN!
WE'VE NEUTRALIZED THEM. IF I HIT YOU AGAIN, YOU'LL DIE!
COFF
THEN I'LL DIE.
BRING THE FEMALE.
MMHHRR!

REED, TELL THEM.
TELL THEM WHAT THEY WANT!
THE CHILDREN.
NO!
FFSSAAMM
BRING IN THE CHILD.
DADDY!
NOOOOO!

DADDY!
YOU TELL US HOW A SKRULL COULD GO UNDETECTED ON EARTH! YOU TELL US HOW!
OKAY! O-OKAY!
I'LL T-TELL YOU. I'LL TELL YOU ANYTHING.
BUT YOU LET MY CHILD GO!
HE IS TELLING A FALSEHOOD.
HE IS ALREADY PLANNING TO RELEASE A CHEMICAL-BASED WEAPON THAT WILL INSTANTLY KILL EVERYONE HERE.
YOU LEAVE MY CHILD ALONE!
END THIS.
BY YOUR WORD.
WILL NOTHING BREAK HIM?
I'M AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND THIS SPECIES' MOTIVATIONS.
SMACK
THERE IS ANOTHER WAY.
IT WILL REQUIRE SOMETHING SUBTLE.

FRANKLIN?
DADDY, I CAN'T SLEEP.
COME HERE, BUDDY. WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I KEEP THINKING ABOUT THE ALIENS.
ALIENS?
I HEARD UNCLE JOHNNY TALKING TO UNCLE BEN.
THERE'RE NO ALIENS HERE.
THE SKRULLS.
YEAH? WHAT DID UNCLE JOHNNY SAY?
HE SAID THEY CAN CHANGE THEIR SHAPE SO THEY LOOK LIKE US.
WELL, THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU NEED TO--
HE SAID THEY *HATE* YOU. HE SAID THEY WERE GOING TO COME HERE AND TAKE YOU AWAY.
WELL, THEY ARE VERY, VERY FAR AWAY AND THEY CAN'T GET IN HERE, H.E.R.B.I.E. WILL SEE TO THAT.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?! HOW DO YOU KNOW THEY AREN'T HERE ALREADY?

BECAUSE I KNOW.
MAYBE MOMMY'S A SKULL.
NOTASKRULL. GOBACKTOSLEEP.
SEE? DOES THAT SOUND LIKE AN ALIEN?
KINDA.
SSSLEEPING.
COME HERE, YOU.
IF THEY COULD CHANGE THEIR SHAPE, HOW DO WE KNOW THEY AREN'T HERE?
BECAUSE *I* CAN TELL. I HAVE MACHINES THAT CAN TELL.
AND THEY CAN ONLY CHANGE THEIR SHAPE. THEY CAN'T BECOME THE REAL YOU.
WHAT IF THEY FOUND A WAY TO DO IT SO NO ONE COULD TELL?
THEY DIDN'T. AND YOU KNOW HOW I KNOW?
BECAUSE THEY'D HAVE TO BE AS SMART AS YOU?
AND YOU KNOW WHAT?

THEY WENT HOME AND THEY ARE NEVER COMING BACK.
BECAUSE YOUR UNCLE BEN SCARED THEM. AND YOUR DADDY OUTSMARTED THEM.
OKAY.
'KAY.
I'M OKAY NOW.
OKAY.
YOU'RE SMARTER THAN THEM.
YOU WOULD FIGURE OUT ANYTHING THEY COULD DO.

WHAT IS THAT?
SOMETHING FRANKLIN MADE ME THINK OF.
SOMETHING THE SKRULLS COULD DO TO THEMSELVES IF THEY EVER--
IS THAT IT?
IS THAT WHAT?
HE THINKS SO.
TERMINATE THE PROGRAM.
BY YOUR WORD.
FFSSAAAAAMM

I NEED A CLEANSING.
AYE. THAT WAS DISTASTEFUL.
WE BID YOU WELL, WARRIORS. YOU MAY GO.
BY YOUR WORD.
IS THAT IT?
IS IT?
HE TRULY LOVES US.
THE EMPIRE WILL LIVE.

NEW AVENGERS #45

THE NEW AVENGERS

ONE YEAR AGO...

WANDA MAXIMOFF, THE SCARLET WITCH, EXPERIENCED A TOTAL NERVOUS BREAKDOWN AFTER LOSING CONTROL OF HER REALITY-ALTERING POWERS AND MAGNETO, HAVING LOST THE WAR AGAINST THE HUMANS THAT HE SACRIFICED THE WELL-BEING OF HIS CHILDREN FOR, IS FORCED TO WATCH HIS DAUGHTER SUFFER THE LOSS OF CONTROL OVER BOTH HER POWERS AND HER GRIP ON REALITY.

CHARLES XAVIER, UNABLE TO HELP THE SCARLET WITCH ON HIS OWN, GATHERS THE AVENGERS AND X-MEN TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH HER. REFUSING TO ACCEPT THAT KILLING HER IS THE ONLY SOLUTION, THE GATHERED HEROES RETURN TO GENOSHA TO CONFRONT WANDA IN HOPES OF DISCOVERING WHAT IT IS SHE WANTS.

THEN THE WORLD BURNS AWAY TO WHITE.

WANDA TRANSFORMS THE ENTIRE WORLD INTO A UTOPIA WHERE MUTANTS ARE THE DOMINANT SPECIES AND MOST EVERYONE IS GIVEN THEIR TRUE HEART'S DESIRE. HER FATHER'S DREAM HAS BECOME A TWISTED REALITY — HE IS LORD AND MASTER OF THE RULING CLASS, THE HOUSE OF M. ONLY WOLVERINE SEEMS TO REMEMBER THE WORLD AS IT WAS, AND HE GATHERS HIS FELLOW HEROES TO TRY TO BRING REALITY BACK.

WHAT NO ONE KNEW WAS THAT EVEN DURING THIS PHANTASM THAT ALMOST DESTROYED REALITY, SHAPE-SHIFTING SKRULLS HAD ALREADY INFILTRATED THE SUPER HEROES' TEAMS. BOTH JESSICA DREW, A.K.A. SPIDER-WOMAN, AND HANK PYM, A.K.A. YELLOWJACKET, WERE SKRULL SLEEPER AGENTS — AND THIS WAS THE BREAK IN RANKS THEY WERE HOPING FOR...

PATCHING FIELD COMMANDER WADE WILSON THROUGH THE T9-LINK SATELLITE.
NATASHA ROMANOVA IS REQUESTING BACKUP AT THE MADRIPOOR OUTPOST.
ASK FOR AN INTEL REPORT.
DIRECTOR SHAW HASN'T REPORTED IN YET.
SEND A B-TEAM OUT TO THE SAVAGE LAND AND SEE WHAT IS WHAT.
ANY WORD ON WEAPON XXXC?
SOME KIND OF FLUCTUATION.
LATVERIA HAS NO AMBASSADOR, HE'S LYING.
LATVERIA HAS NO AMBASSADOR? SINCE WHEN?
AGENT SITWELL IS CALLING IN?
SERIOUSLY, SINCE WHEN?
THE BROOD SIGNAL IS STILL OFFLINE.
SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH IT.
HAVE WE GOTTEN AN UPDATE FROM GENOSHA'S OUTPOST?
GENOSHA, THIS IS HELICARRIER FIVE.
YOU'RE LATE WITH THE SCHEDULED UPDATE.

GENOSHA OUTPOST REPORTS IN.
EVERYTHING IS NORMAL.

AH, GOOD MORNING, COMMANDOS. WHERE'S YOUR SQUAD LEADER?
HE'LL BE HERE.
UM, EX-EXCUSE ME.
EXCUSE ME FOR A--
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, LEIBCHEN?
UM...
GO FIND LOGAN WHILE YOU'RE OUT THERE, AGENT DREW.
I HAVE TO SEND YOU GUYS OUT INTO THE FIELD.
HUUAAGGHH!

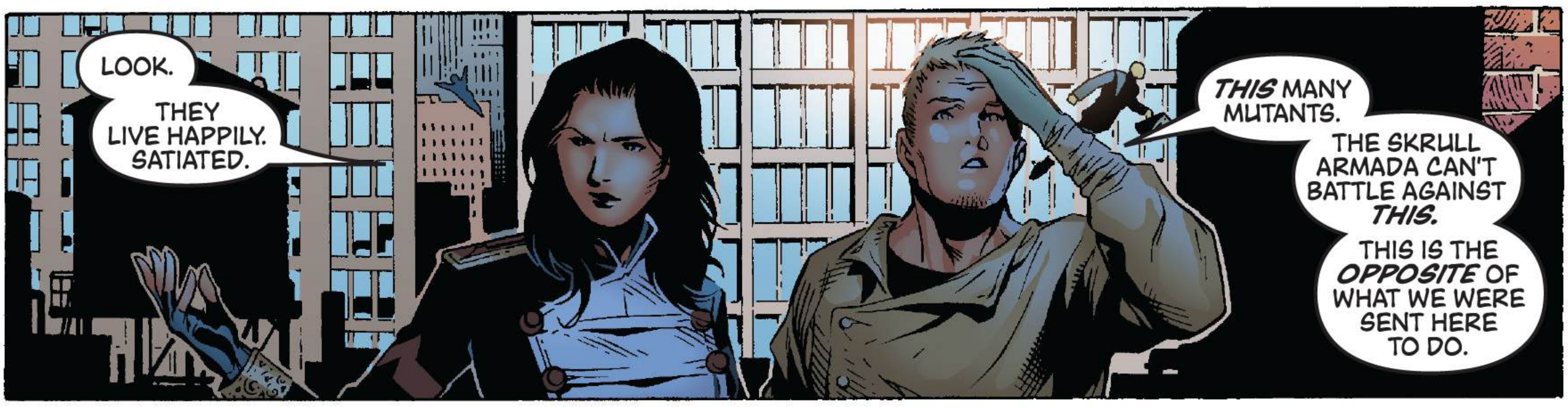
CHICAGO
HE'LL FIRE YOU, DOCTOR PYM.
HE'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN HE SEES THE RESULTS. HE'LL--
NO, HE WON'T. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT TONY STARK...
DR. McCOY, I DON'T NEED YOU TO--
LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT TONY STARK.
HE EXPECTS--BARE MINIMUM--HE EXPECTS THE PEOPLE WHO CASH HIS CHECKS TO DO WHAT HE SAYS.
YOU CANNOT ISOLATE THE MUTANT GENE. YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY IT. MAYBE FIFTY--
MAYBE FIFTY YEARS AGO. MAYBE AFTER WORLD WAR II, BUT NOT NOW.
JUST THE IDEA IS ANTI-MUTANT.

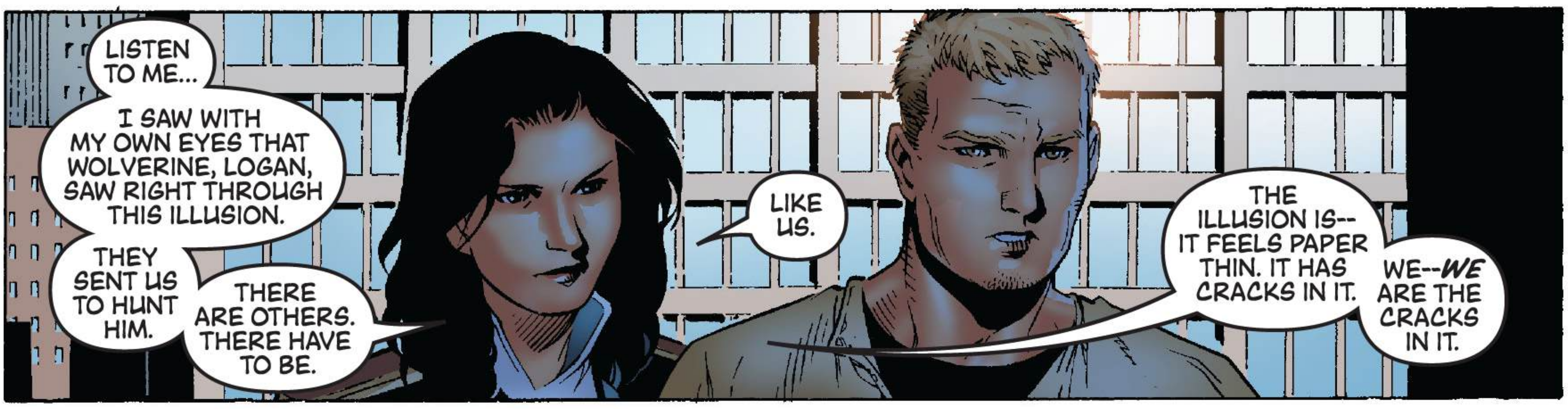
I LIKE YOU, HENRY. WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER A GOOD LONG TIME...

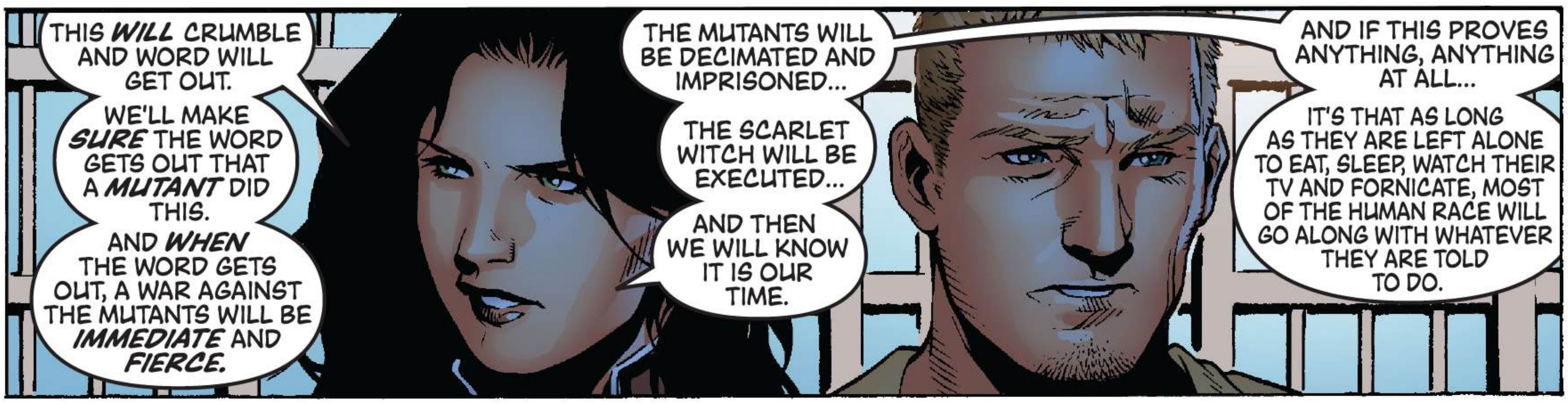
HEY, I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, NO ONE GETS IT MORE THAN ME.
WHEN IT HAPPENED TO THE DINOSAURS-- *THEY* DIDN'T SEE IT COMING.
THEY *DIDN'T* HAVE THE INTELLECT OR CAPACITY TO UNDERSTAND IT.
BUT YOU DO.
YOU'RE WATCHING IT HAPPEN AND IT STINGS LIKE A BITCH.
IF THE ROLES WERE REVERSED I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* I'D DO.
YOU'RE RIGHT TO FEEL THE WAY YOU DO.
IT'S NOT FAIR THAT YOU HAVE TO SIT HERE, WITH FULL AWARENESS...
...AND WATCH IT SLOWLY HAPPEN.
COME ON, DON'T BE LIKE THIS.
LET'S GRAB SOME LUNCH?
HENRY.
HENRY, COME ON...

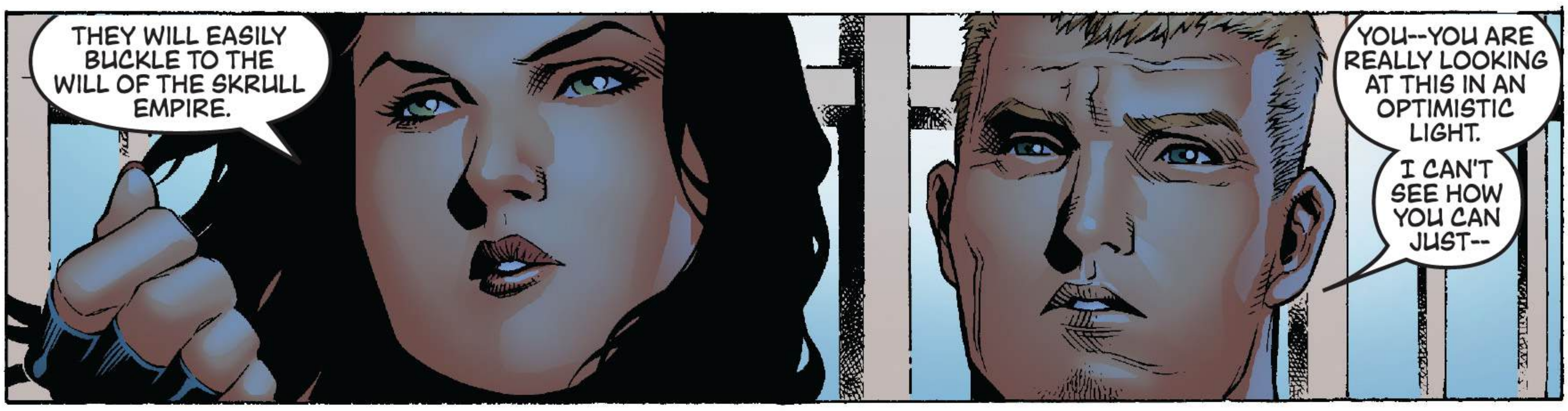
NO!
DOCTOR PYM, ARE YOU ALL--?
OH GOD!
IT'S OKAY.
STOP IT!
AGH!
STOP! GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF.
GNH!
HOLD IT TOGETHER.
I AM YOUR QUEEN. YOU WILL HEED MY WORD.
MMMMM!
YOUR NAME IS CRITI NOLL.
SAY IT! YOUR NAME IS CRITI NOLL.

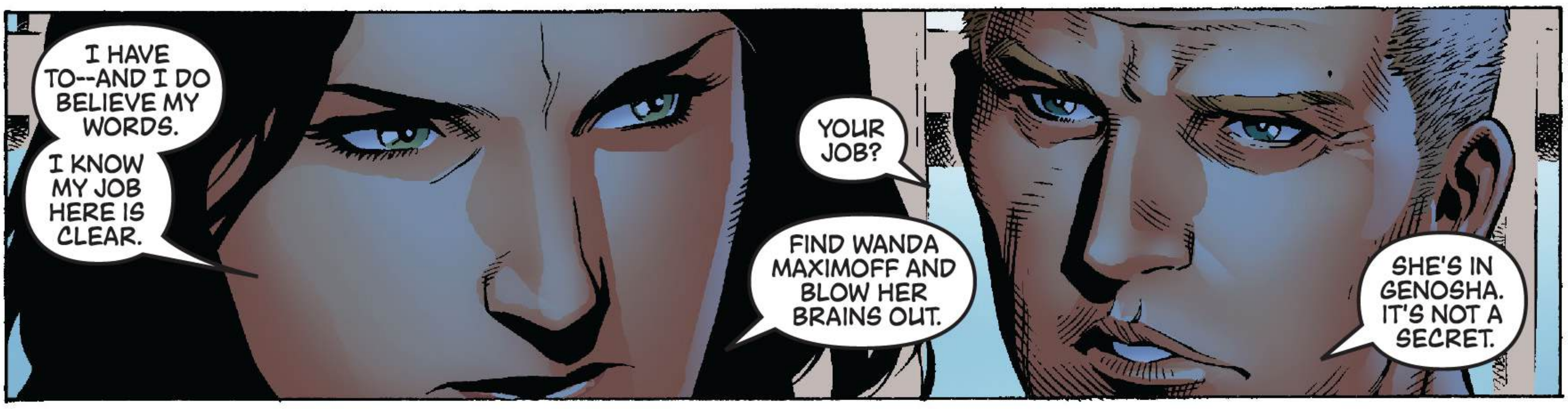
I AM YOUR QUEEN.
MY NAME IS VERANKE.
YOU HAVE SWORN YOUR ALLEGIANCE. SAY YOUR NAME.
CRITI.
YES.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
EVERYTHING IS--EVERYTHING IS *WRONG.*
YES.
YOU CALLED ME AND YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO GO WITH THE AVENGERS AND THE X-MEN AND DEAL WITH THE SCARLET WITCH.
YOU CALLED ME. DO YOU REMEMBER?
I DID.
I CALLED YOU.
YOU WENT TO THE SCARLET WITCH. AND THEN THE WORLD WENT WHITE.
THE WORLD WENT WHITE.
DID YOU KILL HER?
WHITE.
NO. NO. WE NEVER GOT TO HER.
WE CAME TO GENOSHA AND--
OH MY GOD.
SHE DID *THIS?*
HOW? SHE--SHE ISN'T *THIS* POWERFUL. SHE ISN'T A GOD.
SHE *IS* POWERFUL.
THAT'S WHY SHE WAS ON OUR *LIST.* WE COULDN'T POSSIBLY TAKE THE PLANET WITH HER *ON IT.*
SHE'S ONE OF THE REASONS WE ARE *HERE.* HIDING.
WHY--BUT WHY ISN'T THE WORLD IN *CHAOS* OVER THIS? WHY ISN'T THE WORLD *REACTING?*
DO THEY NOT KNOW?
FALL 200
Alison on 4
WIL
ONLY ON
TBS
5
MABYS
Sarah & Almando Show
Weekday Mornings
Starting This Fall

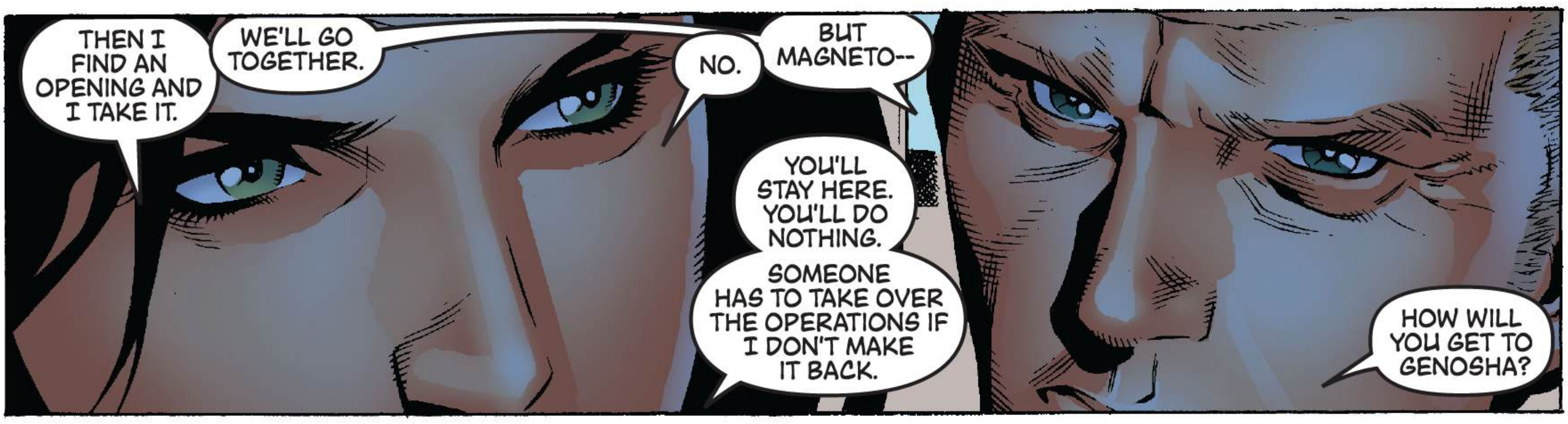

LOOK.
THEY LIVE HAPPILY. SATIATED.
THIS MANY MUTANTS.
THE SKRULL ARMADA CAN'T BATTLE AGAINST *THIS.*
THIS IS THE *OPPOSITE* OF WHAT WE WERE SENT HERE TO DO.


LISTEN TO ME...
I SAW WITH MY OWN EYES THAT WOLVERINE, LOGAN, SAW RIGHT THROUGH THIS ILLUSION.
THEY SENT US TO HUNT HIM.
THERE ARE OTHERS. THERE HAVE TO BE.
LIKE US.
THE ILLUSION IS-- IT FEELS PAPER THIN. IT HAS CRACKS IN IT.
WE--*WE* ARE THE CRACKS IN IT.


THIS *WILL* CRUMBLE AND WORD WILL GET OUT.
WE'LL MAKE *SURE* THE WORD GETS OUT THAT A *MUTANT* DID THIS.
AND *WHEN* THE WORD GETS OUT, A WAR AGAINST THE MUTANTS WILL BE *IMMEDIATE* AND *FIERCE.*
THE MUTANTS WILL BE DECIMATED AND IMPRISONED...
THE SCARLET WITCH WILL BE EXECUTED...
AND THEN WE WILL KNOW IT IS OUR TIME.
AND IF THIS PROVES ANYTHING, ANYTHING AT ALL...
IT'S THAT AS LONG AS THEY ARE LEFT ALONE TO EAT, SLEEP, WATCH THEIR TV AND FORNICATE, MOST OF THE HUMAN RACE WILL GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER THEY ARE TOLD TO DO.


THEY WILL EASILY BUCKLE TO THE WILL OF THE SKRULL EMPIRE.
YOU--YOU ARE REALLY LOOKING AT THIS IN AN OPTIMISTIC LIGHT.
I CAN'T SEE HOW YOU CAN JUST--


I HAVE TO--AND I DO BELIEVE MY WORDS.
I KNOW MY JOB HERE IS CLEAR.
YOUR JOB?
FIND WANDA MAXIMOFF AND BLOW HER BRAINS OUT.
SHE'S IN GENOSHA. IT'S NOT A SECRET.


THEN I FIND AN OPENING AND I TAKE IT.
WE'LL GO TOGETHER.
NO.
BUT MAGNETO--
YOU'LL STAY HERE. YOU'LL DO NOTHING.
SOMEONE HAS TO TAKE OVER THE OPERATIONS IF I DON'T MAKE IT BACK.
HOW WILL YOU GET TO GENOSHA?

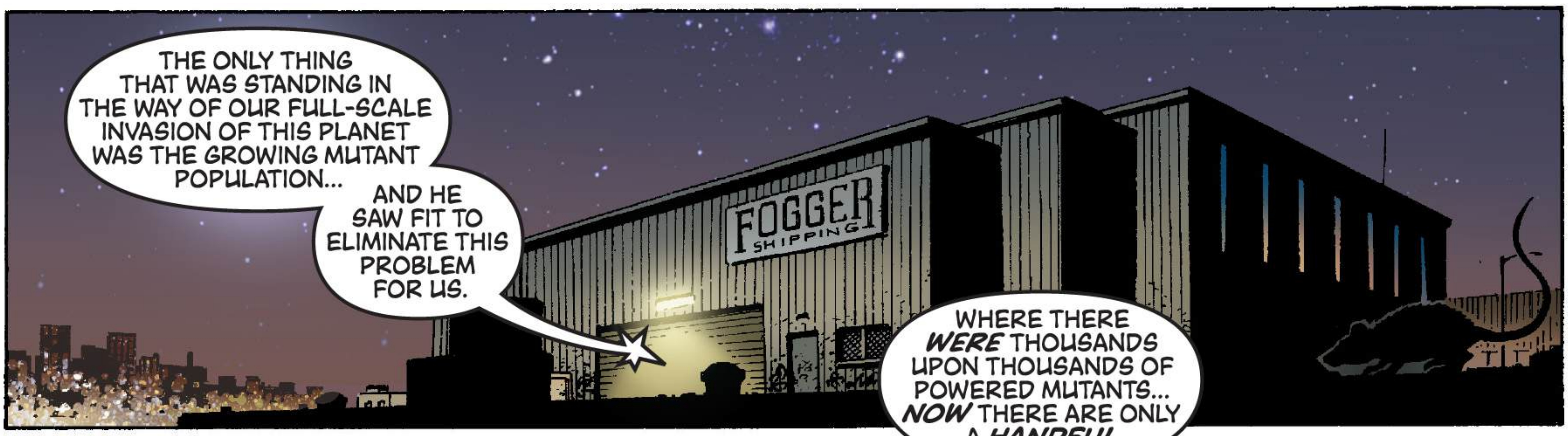
"I'LL FIND A RIDE.
"I'M SURE I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE READY TO TAKE OUT THE SCARLET WITCH."
DON'T STOP! KEEP FIGHTING!
WHO *ARE* YOU PEOPLE? WHAT DO YOU *WANT* FROM US?!
WE CAN'T LOSE THIS!
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, ORORO, WE'RE YOUR FAMILY. SO TRY TO TAKE IT A LITTLE EASY ON US.
THIS IS MADNESS!

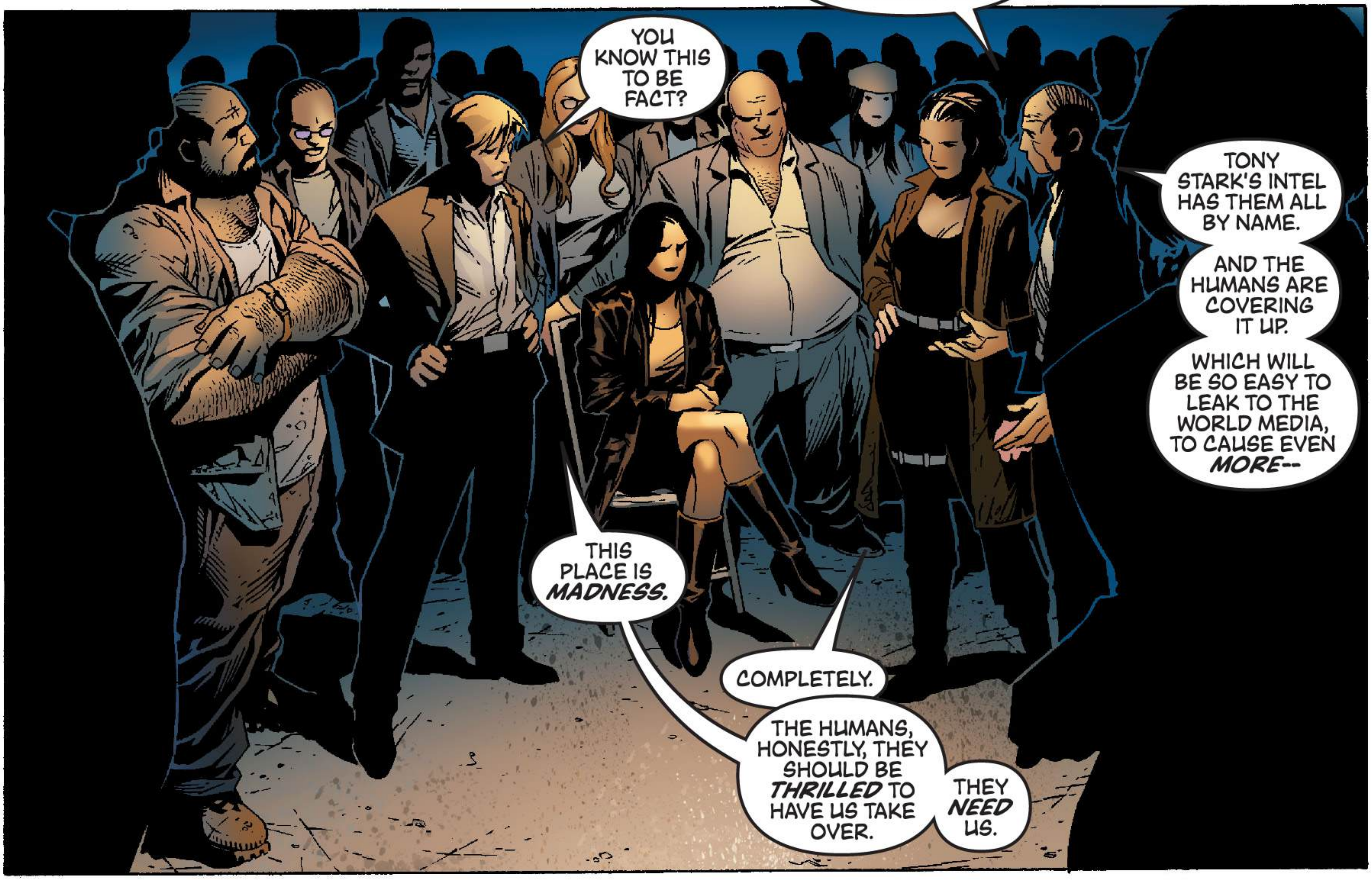
ZZAATTCCKK

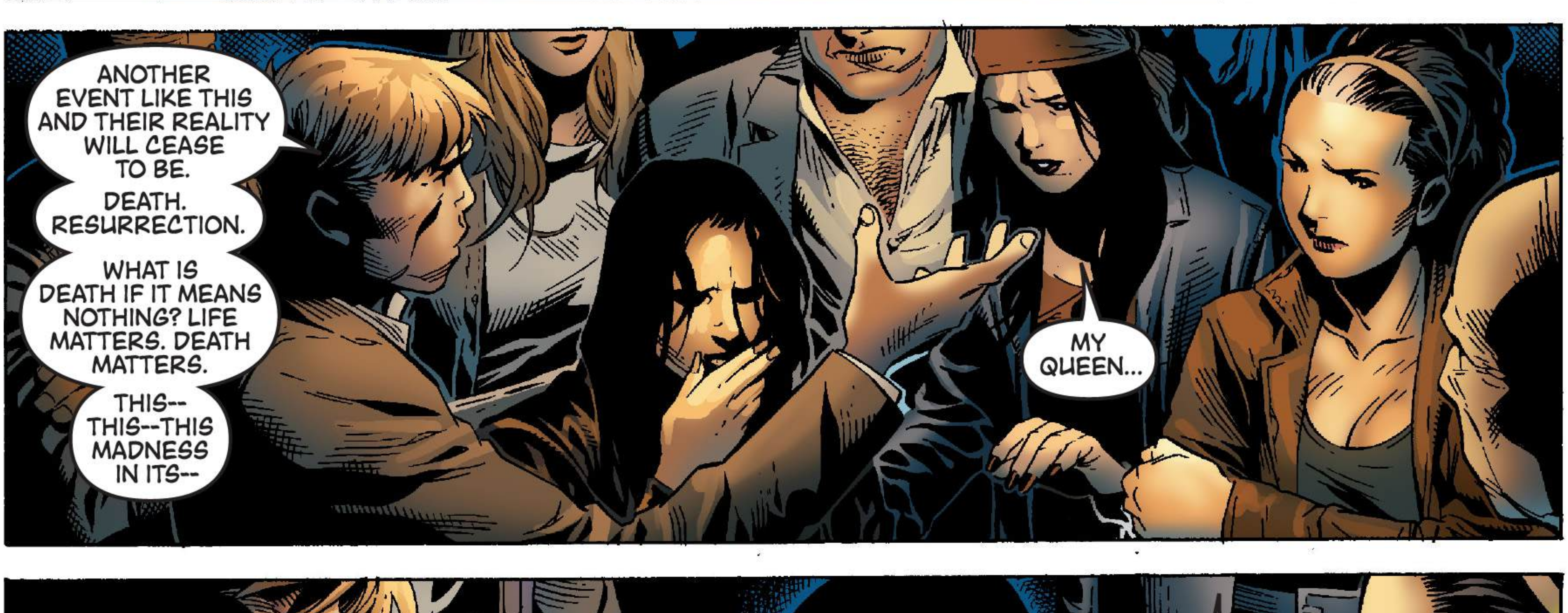
WHY?
YOU'RE ASKING ME WHY?!
WE WERE FRIENDS, WANDA. TEAMMATES.
I TRULY LOVED YOU. I'D KILL FOR YOU.

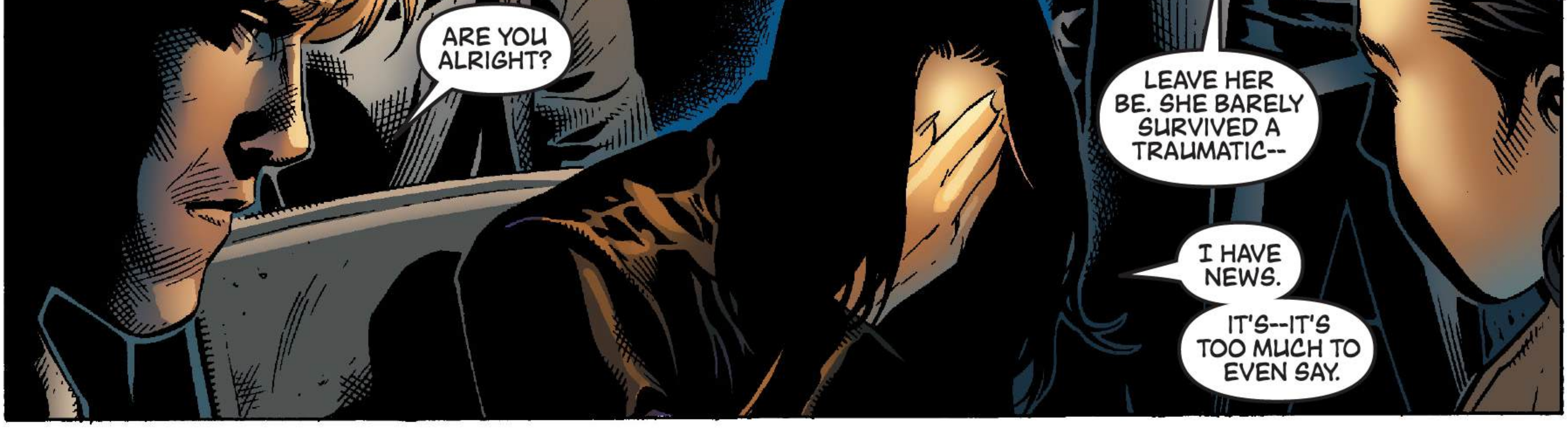
NO MORE MUTANTS.

HE LOVES US ALL.


THE ONLY THING THAT WAS STANDING IN THE WAY OF OUR FULL-SCALE INVASION OF THIS PLANET WAS THE GROWING MUTANT POPULATION...
AND HE SAW FIT TO ELIMINATE THIS PROBLEM FOR US.
FOGGER SHIPPING
WHERE THERE *WERE* THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF POWERED MUTANTS... *NOW* THERE ARE ONLY A *HANDFUL.*


YOU KNOW THIS TO BE FACT?
TONY STARK'S INTEL HAS THEM ALL BY NAME.
AND THE HUMANS ARE COVERING IT UP.
WHICH WILL BE SO EASY TO LEAK TO THE WORLD MEDIA, TO CAUSE EVEN *MORE*--
THIS PLACE IS *MADNESS.*
COMPLETELY.
THE HUMANS, HONESTLY, THEY SHOULD BE *THRILLED* TO HAVE US TAKE OVER.
THEY *NEED* US.


ANOTHER EVENT LIKE THIS AND THEIR REALITY WILL CEASE TO BE.
DEATH. RESURRECTION.
WHAT IS DEATH IF IT MEANS NOTHING? LIFE MATTERS. DEATH MATTERS.
THIS-- THIS--THIS MADNESS IN ITS--
MY QUEEN...


ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
LEAVE HER BE. SHE BARELY SURVIVED A TRAUMATIC--
I HAVE NEWS.
IT'S--IT'S TOO MUCH TO EVEN SAY.

ANNIHILATION DAY, PLUS 15

IT WAS WRITTEN IN OUR BOOK OF WORLDS. A WAVE WOULD COME.
AND IT HAS COME TRUE.
IT WAS WRITTEN AND IT HAS COME TRUE.
A BILLION SKRULLS DIED TO PROVE THE WORDS TRUE.
A BILLION MORE SKRULLS DIED TO TELL US WE ARE HERE WITH PURPOSE.
IT WAS WRITTEN A WAVE WOULD COME.
AND IT WAS WRITTEN A WORLD OF BLUE WOULD BE THE HOME FOR ALL THAT BELIEVED.
WE ARE RIGHT.
HE LOVES US.

NEW AVENGERS #46

ONE MONTH AGO
SO, WHAT? WE GONNA TORTURE HIM?
WE'RE GONNA QUESTION HIM.
ABOUT WHAT?
YOU'LL SEE.
NO. NO.
SEE, THIS IS AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
THIS IS--STARK WON'T STAND FOR THIS.
THEY WILL COME LOOKING FOR HIM.
HE'S WAKING UP.
WE SHOULD DUMP HIM IN THE RIVER AND MOVE ON. TRUST ME, YOU DON'T WANT TO GO DOWN THIS ROAD.
STOP.
IT'S A BAD ROAD.
AFTER ALL THE @#%% WE BEEN THROUGH WITH THESE @#%%? MAN, I NEED *PAYBACK.*
THIS ISN'T ABOUT THAT.
WHAT *IS* IT ABOUT?
HHHRR...
HERE GOES...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.?
WHERRRRE MMMI?
THE QUESTION IS: WHO ARE YOU?
I-I AM AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
YOU--YOU PEOPLE--YOU PEOPLE ARE--ARE ALL UNDER ARREST.
ACTUALLY, NO.
BUT IF YOU WON'T ANSWER MY FIRST QUESTION, LET'S JUST GET TO THE BIG ONE...

THE HOOD'S SYNDICATE OF CRIMINALS
TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT SKRULLS.

ONE MONTH, ONE DAY AGO
SETTLE DOWN, WHITNEY.
HHRR!
IS THAT HER NAME?
WHITNEY FROST.
DID NOT KNOW THAT.
CRACK
AGH!
WELL... DAMN!
HHAARR!
AGH!
WHACK
GAH!!

AAAIIEE!
ZZAACK'K
DAMN!
GET UP. GET ON YOUR FEET!
TRY THAT AGAIN-- WE'LL FRY YOUR HEAD AND THEN BLOW IT ACROSS THE ROOM!

MADAME MASQUE...
WHITNEY FROST...
WHAT THE HELL *HAPPENED* TO YOU?
YOU USED TO HAVE YOUR OWN HONEST-TO-GOD *CRIMINAL EMPIRE.*
YOU WERE A FORCE TO BE *RECKONED* WITH.
FOR *REAL?*
AND NOW... WHAT?
YOU'RE THE HOOD'S FRIDAY NIGHT GIRL?
NOW, *THAT* IS A COMEDOWN.
THE HOOD.
THIS IS A NEW THING. THIS KINGPIN OF THE SUPER-CRIMINALS.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.
AH, THE BADASS STINK EYE.
SAW THAT COMING.
GUESS WE SHOULD TAKE HER MASK OFF.
GUESS WE HAVE TO.
SEE WHAT'S SO DAMN HORRIBLE UNDER THERE.
THEY SAY NO ONE'S EVER SEEN HER WITHOUT IT.
IF THE HOOD HAS, WE HAVE TO KNOW OR THE SWITCHOUT WON'T WORK.
EXACTLY.
I'LL KILL YOU!
I'LL KILL YOU ALL!

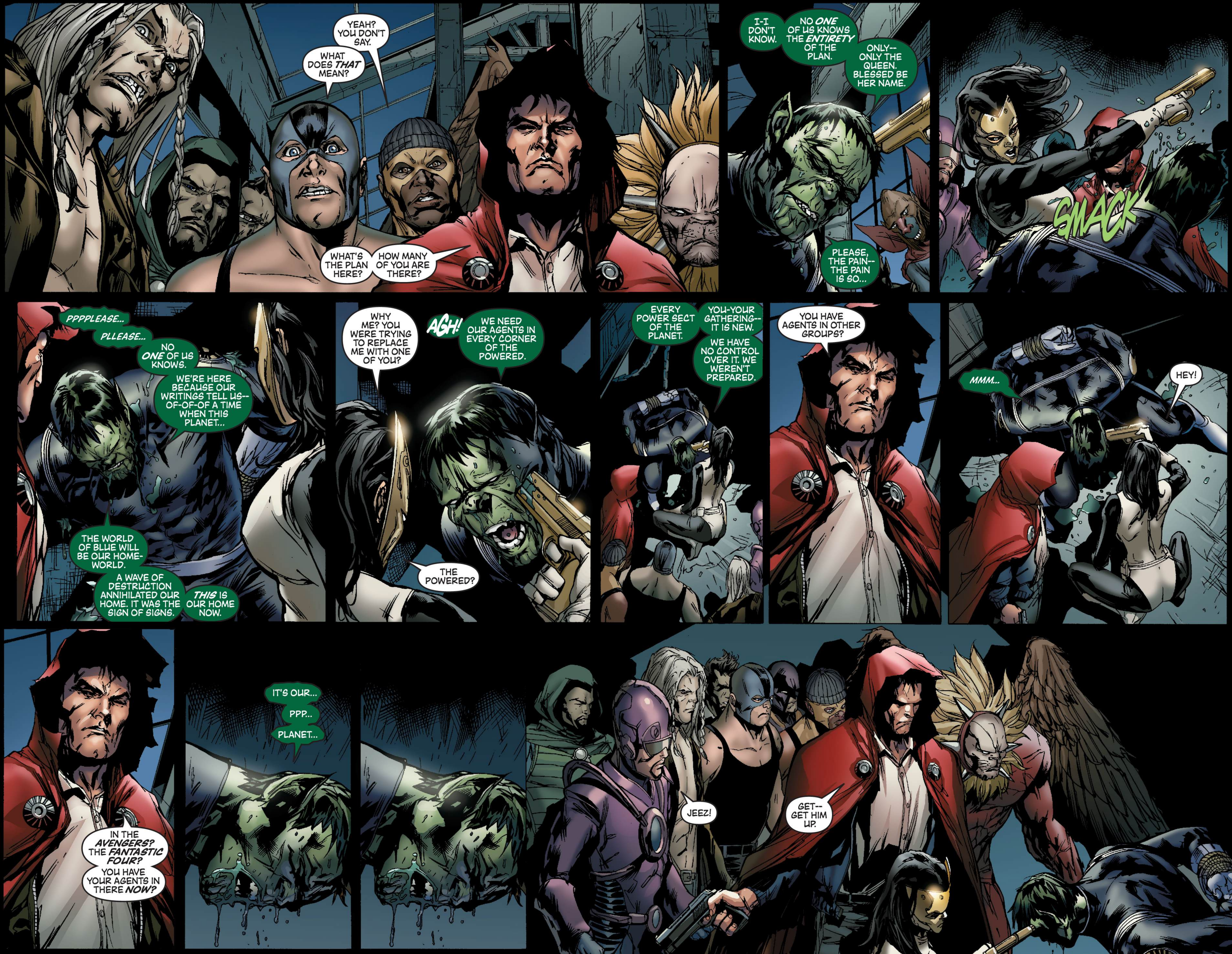
DON'T WORRY, BABE... I GOT IT.
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM
YOU DON'T--
HUP!
NAH!
BLAM BLAM
HEY.
BLAM
PARKER.
HOLD ON, ALMOST DONE.
PARKER!
DON'T--
PARKER!
WHAT?

WHAT IS THIS?
TAP TAP
HUH. GUESS WE SHOULD GET EVERYONE TOGETHER.

ONE MONTH AGO.
TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT SKRULLS.
WHAT'S A SKRULL?
IT'S AN ALIEN RACE, RIGHT?
SHAPE-SHIFTING ALIEN RACE.
SPACE ALIENS? OR--?
ALIENS, NOW? WHAT THE HELL, MAN?
THIS IS WHAT YOU DRAGGED US ALL BACK TOGETHER FOR? ALIENS?
WAIT FOR IT.
YOU'RE-- YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST.
NO, NO.
COME ON, MINI-KINGPIN. THIS IS ALL SUCH BUNK, MAN.
LISTEN, ALL DUE RESPECT...
BUT YOU BLEW IT.
YOU SICCED US ON THE AVENGERS AND YOU GOT US ALL BEAT TO HELL.
YOU TRIED TO GET US PAID, AND YOU GOT US PINCHED.
NOW WE ALL APPRECIATE YOU CAN GET US OUT OF THE POKEY, BUT IT AIN'T WORKING.
YEAH.
YOU TRIED, BUT IT DOESN'T WORK.
THE REASON GETTING A GROUP OF US TOGETHER LIKE THIS HAS NEVER WORKED BEFORE IS BECAUSE IT *DOESN'T* WORK.
AND NOW YOU COME AT US WITH *SPACE ALIENS?*
EXACTLY.
YOU DONE?
SERIOUSLY? A GUN?
YOU *DONE?*
DONE BUYING INTO YOUR B.S., DEMON BOY.
I'M *OUT.*
WE'RE *ALL* OUT.
AS IN: DON'T CALL NO MORE.
IT'S NOT A LIE.
I SAW THEM MYSELF.
SURE, THAT'S WHAT *YOU'LL* SAY.
YOU'RE HIS HOOCHIE MAMA.
WHAT?
WHERE IS *THAT* COMING FROM?
AIN'T'CHA?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
BUT YOU TALK LIKE THAT TO ME AGAIN AND I WILL KILL YOU.
NOT WITH *THAT* YOU WON'T.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
BLAM

AGGHH!
BLAM
GLYAAGGH!
HOW MANY WILL IT *TAKE?!*
BLAM
AAGGHH!
OH GOD!
THIS ONE SHOULD DO IT!
NO! NO!

PLEASE DON'T.
HO!
WELL, DAMN!
HOW MANY SKRULLS ARE POSING AS AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.?
I--
I DON'T KNOW.
YES, YOU DO.
WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE? WHY ARE YOU *HERE?*
I'LL SHOOT NEXT.
NO!
NO...
THE EARTH...
IT'S--IT'S OURS.


YEAH? YOU DON'T SAY.
WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?
WHAT'S THE PLAN HERE?
HOW MANY OF YOU ARE THERE?
I-I DON'T KNOW.
NO *ONE* OF US KNOWS THE *ENTIRETY* OF THE PLAN.
ONLY-- ONLY THE QUEEN. BLESSED BE HER NAME.
PLEASE, THE PAIN-- THE PAIN IS SO...
SMACK
PPPPLEASE...
PLLEASE...
NO *ONE* OF US KNOWS.
WE'RE HERE BECAUSE OUR WRITINGS TELL US-- OF-OF-OF A TIME WHEN THIS PLANET...
THE WORLD OF BLUE WILL BE OUR HOMEWORLD.
A WAVE OF DESTRUCTION ANNIHILATED OUR HOME. IT WAS THE SIGN OF SIGNS.
THIS IS OUR HOME NOW.
WHY ME? YOU WERE TRYING TO REPLACE ME WITH ONE OF YOU?
AGH!
WE NEED OUR AGENTS IN EVERY CORNER OF THE POWERED.
THE POWERED?
EVERY POWER SECT OF THE PLANET.
YOU-YOUR GATHERING-- IT IS NEW.
WE HAVE NO CONTROL OVER IT. WE WEREN'T PREPARED.
YOU HAVE AGENTS IN OTHER GROUPS?
MMM...
HEY!
IN THE *AVENGERS?* THE *FANTASTIC FOUR?* YOU HAVE YOUR AGENTS IN THERE *NOW?*
IT'S OUR...
PPP...
PLANET...
JEEZ!
GET-- GET HIM UP.

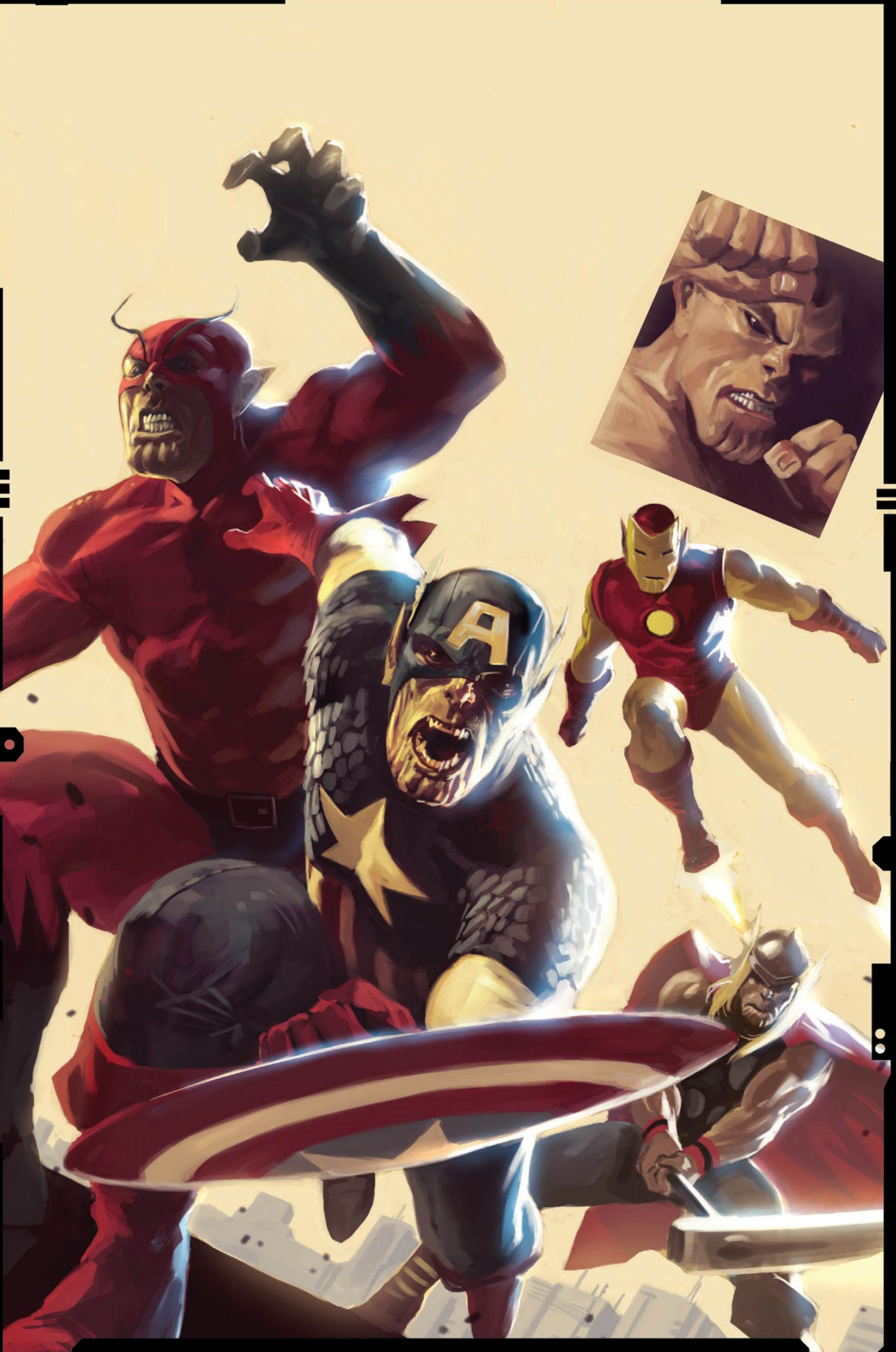
WELL, DAMN *THAT* ALL TO HELL.
IS HE DEAD?
HE'S *VERY* DEAD.
WHAT DO WE *DO?*
WE SHOULD *TELL* SOMEONE, RIGHT?
WHO?
TONY STARK?
OH DAMN, TONY STARK.
HE'S A-- HE'S ONE OF THEM--
THAT MAKES SO MUCH SENSE.
WHAT *DO* WE DO?
I'M THINKING.
AND--HEY, HOW DO WE KNOW ONE OF US AIN'T ONE OF THEM RIGHT *NOW?*
FOR REAL.
BECAUSE THEY WERE TRYING TO GET INTO THIS GROUP THROUGH *ME.*
IF THEY *HAD* SOMEONE *IN* THIS GROUP THEY WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TO--
SAYS *YOU.*
WHAT?
EXACTLY.
YOU'RE THE ONE BROUGHT THIS HERE. WHO'S TO SAY--
RIGHT! HOW DO WE KNOW *THIS* AIN'T SOME WHOLE MIND F--?!
STOP IT!
STOP IT AND THINK FOR A SECOND.
WHEN YOU-- ROBBINS-- YOUR POWERS--
WE HAVE ALL WITNESSED-- WE'VE ALL SEEN YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF DEMONIC UNDERTOW...
WHEN WE WERE OUTSIDE DOCTOR STRANGE'S HOUSE, YOU WERE ABLE TO FOCUS AND SEE THROUGH HIS ILLUSIONS.
YOU WERE ABLE TO SEE TRUTH WHERE OTHERS COULD NOT.
TRY IT HERE.
SEE IF YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN.
YEAH...

SO?
WELL?
ALL CLEAR.
WELL, THAT'S A RE--
BLAM
AGH!
SPAK
FUMP

DAMN IT!
JEEZ! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHICH ONE OF US THAT WAS!
THE SLUG?
THE SLUG.
I AM NOW FREAKING OUT.
THE REST OF US ARE WHO WE SAY WE ARE.
I CAN'T TAKE THIS!
THEY MUST HAVE GOTTEN TO HIM AFTER THEY BOTCHED THE ATTEMPT ON ME.
AND BEFORE WE CALLED THE MEETING.
RIGHT.
NO ONE ELSE IS CREEPED THE @#$% OUT?
THE BODIES. THE ENTIRE PLACE.
BURN IT.
WHAT DO WE DO?
I'M GOING TO DO SOME DIGGING.
I'M GOING TO FIGURE THIS OUT.
HOW?
I'LL CALL YOU.
TRANSLATION: I HAVE NO DAMN IDEA.

PUH!
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT I CAN *DO.*
YOU *HEAR* ME?!
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME *EXACTLY* WHAT THIS HOOD DOES.
ALL ITS SECRETS!
TELL ME!
YOU *TELL* ME WHAT THIS HOOD *DOES!*
YOU TELL ME WHO *YOU ARE!*
YOU TELL ME WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE, ME AND YOU, OR I TAKE THIS HOOD OFF AND I THROW IT *IN THE RIVER* AND YOU GO BACK TO WHEREVER IT IS *YOU CAME FROM!*
YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT.
I *WOULD!*
I AM SURROUNDED BY *MADNESS!*
ALIENS AND CRAZY!
SURROUNDED.
AND I NEED TO KNOW WHAT I CAN DO TO *STOP IT!*
YOU TELL ME *NOW!*
TELL ME WHO YOU ARE.
ALL RIGHT...

I AM DORMAMMU!
BOW BEFORE ME!
FOR I WILL GUIDE YOUR HAND AND GRANT YOU THE FULL POWER OF THE DARK DIMENSION.



MIGHTY AVENGERS #12

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

RECENTLY, S.H.I.E.L.D. DIRECTOR NICK FURY DISCOVERED THAT DOZENS OF LOW-RENT TECHNOLOGY-BASED SUPER-CRIMINALS WERE BEING SECRETLY FUNDED BY THE NEW PRIME MINISTER OF LATVERIA. HE GATHERED SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST COLORFUL AND MISUNDERSTOOD HEROES — WOLVERINE, DAREDEVIL, SPIDER-MAN, CAPTAIN AMERICA, BLACK WIDOW AND LUKE CAGE — FOR A COVERT TRIP TO LATVERIA. WHAT THE HEROES DID NOT KNOW WAS THAT FURY BROUGHT THEM THERE TO OVERTHROW THE TERRORIST LATVERIAN GOVERNMENT. AFTER THE VIOLENCE WAS OVER AND THE DAY WAS WON, FURY ERASED THE HORRIBLE MEMORY FROM THE HEROES' MINDS. IT WAS ONLY LATER, WHEN LATVERIA LAUNCHED A VENGEFUL COUNTERATTACK, THAT THEY DISCOVERED THE TRUE NATURE OF FURY'S BETRAYAL. . .

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.
WHOA!
LOGAN!
YOU DON'T MESS WITH MY HEAD!
YOU DON'T MESS WITH MY HEAD!
STOP.

WHAT-- WHAT *IS* THAT THING?
YEAH, UM...
...THE COLONEL EXCUSED HIMSELF FROM THE SCENE ONCE THE THREAT WAS OVER.
THAT'S A... LIFE MODEL DECOY?
WOW, THEY'RE MAKING THEM GOOD NOW.
I KNOW YOU'RE SSSSTEAMIN' BUT DON'T WORRY. THIS WAS MY BIIIIIG FINISH.
I'M DONE.
I DDDDODGED THE POLITICS OF THIS ONCE--I CCCCAN'T DO IT AGAIN.
HE'S BROADCASTING FROM SOMEWHERE.
WHERE IS HE?
YOU'LL NEVER SEE OR HEAR FROM ME AGAIN.
THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN DO HERE.
THAT'S WHY I CAME CLEAN WITH YA HERE.
LET YOU HEAR IT STRAIGHT FROM ME.
YOU ARE HEROES. MORE THAN ME.
MAYBE ONE DAY YOU'LL LOOK AROUND AND YOU'LL SEE THE WORLD LIKE I HAVE TO, AND YOU'LL KNOW I DID THE RIGHT THING.
OR AT LEAST YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY I DID IT.
SIGNIN' OFFFFFFFFFFF.

ONE MONTH LATER.
RATTLE
OH, I'M SORRY, I MUST HAVE THE WRONG ROOM.
SO...
DO YOU LIKE?
WERE YOU FOLLOWED?

WOULD I COME HERE IF I WAS?
HOW'S THE REAL WORLD DOING WITHOUT ME?
THEY CLEANED HOUSE.
YOU'RE SUSPENDED.
S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT COUNTESS VALENTINA ALLEGRA DEFONTAINE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED.
ANYONE WHO KNEW YOU IS SUSPENDED. SAM, JENNY, QUARTERMAIN, EVERYONE EXCEPT DUGAN.
WHAT ARE YA GONNA DO NOW?
WHAT ARE *YOU* GOING TO DO NOW?
I GUESS WE'RE SUPPOSED TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
THAT *WOULD* BE NICE.
YOU CERTAINLY *EARNED* IT. WE *BOTH* EARNED IT.
FEELS ODD THOUGH, DON'T IT?
YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO, NICK.
HISTORY WILL BE KIND.
HEY...

I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO MAKE MY DISGUISE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE.
DIDN'T SAY I DIDN'T LIKE IT.
AND WHAT ARE *YOU* SUPPOSED TO BE?
DISGUISED.
WOULD IT HAVE KILLED YOU TO TRY SOMETHING A LITTLE LESS... BALD?

WHERE YA GOING?
I'M GOING TO GO GET WHATEVER THAT AMAZING SMELL OUTSIDE IS.
WANT ME TO COME?
NO, I'LL BRING YOU BREAKFAST...OR DINNER...IN BED.
CLUMP
ABARROTES

GLEEK
RESTAU
ETI
DID YOU GET THEM?
I GOT HIS CONFIDENCE. IT WILL TAKE A WEEK AT LEAST.
A *WEEK?*

HE'S NOT A *STUPID* MAN.
GET HIS PASSCODES TO HIS PRIVATE S.H.I.E.L.D. FILES AND ELIMINATE HIM.
CALM *DOWN.*
YOU--
CALM DOWN!
TELL THE QUEEN I'M IN PLACE.
YOU SHOULD GET THE--
TELL THE QUEEN. YOU DO *YOUR* TASK. OKAY?
THE MORE TIME YOU SPEND WITH HIM THE RISKIER THE--
STOP TALKING.
GO.
I'LL FIND YOU.
HOTEL
MEXICO ES PRIMERO
HOTEL
OKAY, SO IT SMELLS BETTER THAN IT LOOKS, BUT THAT'S THE--

WHO ARE YOU... REALLY?
COME ON, NICHOLAS...
...REALLY?
ARE YOU CRACKING?
PUT IT DOWN, OR I'M LEAVING.
ONE MORE TIME.
WHO ARE YOU REALLY?
THIS IS VERY DISSA--
FUT
SPACK

HOTEL
ROOSEVELT
MEXICO ES PRIMERO
HOTEL
REC
LINGUIST IDENTIFICATION:
SKRULL, TLIGI DIALECT

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER, FLOATING WORLD HEADQUARTERS OF THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE. PRESENT LOCATION: 1000 FEET OVER SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA.
TWO WEEKS LATER.
TAP TAP
TAP TAP
TAP TAP TAP
TAP TAP TAP TAP
TAP TAP TAP
OH MY GOD!

MARIA HILL. DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
WE'VE MET BEFORE, YOU AND I.
ONCE.
WHERE?
MADRIPOOR.
OH, *THAT'S* WHERE I KNOW YOU FROM?
DON'T PRETEND THAT THE GREAT NICK FURY WHO CAN SNEAK ONTO THE *HELICARRIER* DIDN'T LEARN EVERY DAMN THING ABOUT *ME* BEFORE HE BROKE IN.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
SO HOW'S MY OLD JOB?
I'VE HAD BETTER.
OH, AND YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.
HOW'D YOU *GET* THE JOB?
HOW'D YOU *LOSE* IT?
ALL RIGHT.
I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU TWO THINGS...

I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE NOT SAFE.
YOU ARE SURROUNDED BY THOSE WHO ARE LOOKING TO TAKE YOU OUT.
INCLUDING PEOPLE ABOARD THIS SHIP.
YOU THINK?
TAKE MY ADVICE AND MAKE YOURSELF SOME OF THE NEW DESIGN LIFE MODEL DECOYS.
ABOUT A DOZEN TO START.
START USING THEM.
SEND THEM IN WHEN YOU FEEL THAT ITCH ON THE BACK OF YOUR NECK.
IT'S NOT CHEATING AND IT'S NOT COWARDLY.
IT'S SMART THINKING.
THE OTHER THING IS: I'LL BE WATCHING YOU.
FIRST INKLING I GET THAT YOU AIN'T WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE...
...YOU AIN'T DOIN' WHAT'S IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF...THE PLANET...
...I COME IN HERE, WHILE YOU'RE SLEEPING.
YOU NEVER WAKE UP.
YOU KNOW PLENTY OF PEOPLE THAT KNOW I AIN'T B.S.IN' YOU ABOUT THAT.
GOT A NUMBER I CAN REACH YOU AT...IN CASE I NEED ANY MORE ADVICE?
CUTE.
REMEMBER WHAT I SAID.
THEY'RE RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.
RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE.
UNLESS YOU'RE ONE OF THEM, THEN YOU ALREADY KNEW THIS.

CODE WHITE!
REPEAT, CODE WHITE!
HELICARRIER ONE, WE HAVE HIM. OVER.
KEEP VISUAL. OVER.
IS THAT REALLY HIM? OVER.
RECON TWO, AGENTS FREDA AND CORNELIUS. REPORT. OVER.
WE ARE IN THE AIR. IN PURSUIT. OVER.
SHOULD WE OPEN FIRE, OVER?
UH, WE LOST VISUAL.
HE'S CLOAKED.

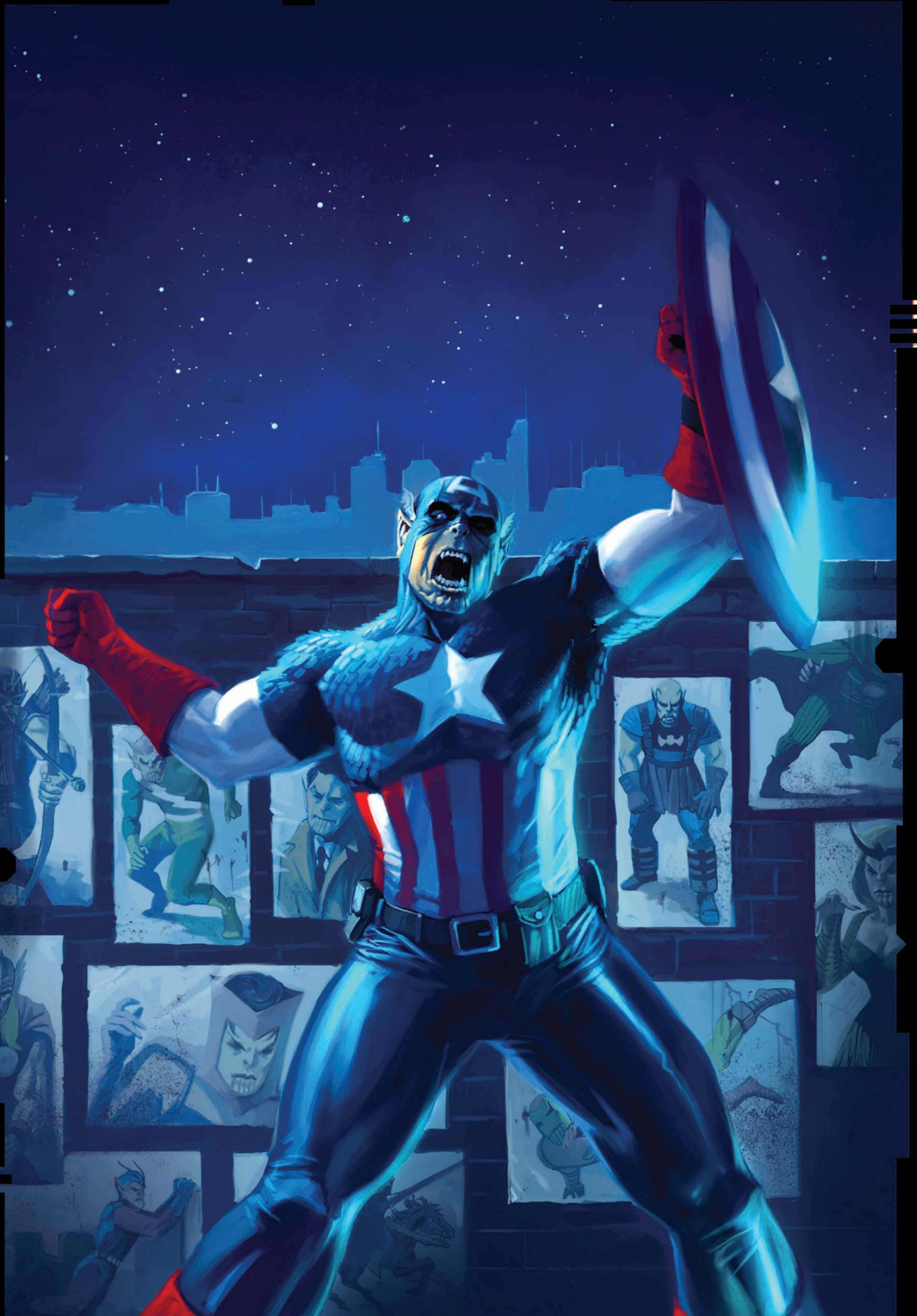
WHAT?
WE LOST VISUAL.
ARE YOU #@#$% KIDDING ME?
HE'S NOT SHOWING UP ON INFRARED OR--
ARE YOU KIDDING ME? HOW IS HE DOING THAT?
HE HAS THE CLOAKING DEVICE IN HIS WATCH. STANDARD ISSUE.
STANDARD ISSUE?
FOR LEVEL NINE AND UP.
I DON'T HAVE ONE.
YOU HAVE TO PUT IN A REQUEST.
THEN IT'S NOT STANDARD ISSUE, IS IT?
WE CAN ESTIMATE HIS DEPARTURE TRAJECTORY BUT HE KNOWS THAT AND PROBABLY CHANGED COURSE UPON CLOAKING.
HE WAS IN YOUR ROOM?
TO BE FAIR, IT USED TO BE HIS.
DID HE TAKE ANYTHING?

TWO MONTHS LATER.
JESSICA DREW.
WOW!
ARE YOU @#$%ING ME?
YOU LOOK GOOD, HEALTHY.
I THOUGHT YOU LEFT ME HANGING OUT TO DRY.
SO YOU'RE--
YOU SET ME UP AS A DOUBLE AGENT REPORTING TO BOTH S.H.I.E.L.D. AND HYDRA AND THEN YOU @#$% ME OVER BECAUSE OF YOUR STUPID SECRET WAR.
SO YOU'RE ANGRY.
THEY CAME TO ME.
JUST LIKE YOU SAID. S.H.I.E.L.D. SAID GIVE YOU UP OR THEY'LL PUT ME IN PRISON.
THREATENED ME RIGHT TO MY FACE.
I SAID, GO AHEAD.
THE GUY BAILED ON *ME* JUST LIKE HE BAILED ON *YOU* GUYS.
ARE YOU DONE?
I *TRUSTED* YOU. COMPLETELY.
AND I AIN'T NEVER LIED TO YA.
S.H.I.E.L.D. TOLD ME TO GO @#$% MYSELF. SO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MAKES ME?
A SECRET AGENT OF HYDRA WITH NO WAY OUT OF IT. THANKS TO YOU.
I NEED YOU TO GO BACK TO S.H.I.E.L.D. AND GROVEL FOR A REINSTATEMENT.
WHAT?

THEY'LL TAKE YOU BACK NOW. IT'LL BE A DEMOTION. NOTHING GLAMOROUS.
BUT THEY NEED MEN. THEY CERTAINLY NEED SOMEONE WITH YOUR SKILL SET.
THE WHOLE ANTI-ME THING IS SETTLIN' DOWN. THEY HAVE A BUSINESS TO RUN.
WHAT WOULD I DO THAT FOR?
WELL, BASED ON MY RECON OF YA THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS, YOU NEED THE WORK.
SECONDLY, I NEED YOUR EYES IN THERE.
SPYING ON *ME* NOW? GREAT.
AND--HEY-- WHAT DO YOU WANT ME THERE FOR? WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?
AND WAIT, YOU DON'T WORK FOR ANYONE. SO WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO THIS?
FOR MANKIND.
WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?
SOMETHING... OFF.
WOW!
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO A *WHOLE LOT* BETTER THAN THAT AT *THIS* POINT IN OUR RELATIONSHIP.
YOU KNOW WHAT A SKRULL IS?

AN ALIEN?
YOU EVER SEEN ONE?
NO.
THING IS, YOU WOULDN'T KNOW IT IF YOU DID. THEY CAN CHANGE SHAPE.
THEY CAN LIVE AMONG US.
AND THEY'RE--YOU THINK THEY GOT INTO S.H.I.E.L.D.?
MAYBE.
HOW DO WE FIND OUT?
CAREFULLY.
NOW YOU GOT ME REALLY CREEPED. HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT ONE?
YOU DON'T. AND I REALLY DON'T KNOW YOU'RE NOT...
EXCEPT THAT I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR THREE DAYS.
I THOUGHT IT WAS TWO.
IT'S BEEN A WEEK.
THAT REALLY CREEPS ME OUT EVEN MORE THAN THE OTHER THING.
HEY, WHAT CAN I TELL YOU? IT'S THE TIMES WE LIVE IN.
YOU IN?
SO NOW I'LL BE A TRIPLE AGENT.
HYDRA, S.H.I.E.L.D., AND I'M REPORTING BACK TO YOU, WHO WORKS FOR NO ONE.
MANKIND.
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I KNOW THIS IS CRAPPY. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN IN LIMBO. IT IS WHAT IT IS.
WAS THAT AS CLOSE TO AN APOLOGY AS I'M GOING TO GET OUT OF YOU?
YOU IN?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
I'LL TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.
I'M GOING TO FIGURE THIS OUT.
I'M GOING TO PUT ALL THE PIECES TOGETHER.

AND WHEN THEY SHOW THEIR HAND...
...I'M GOING TO BE READY.
#03320
#03325
#03322
#03328



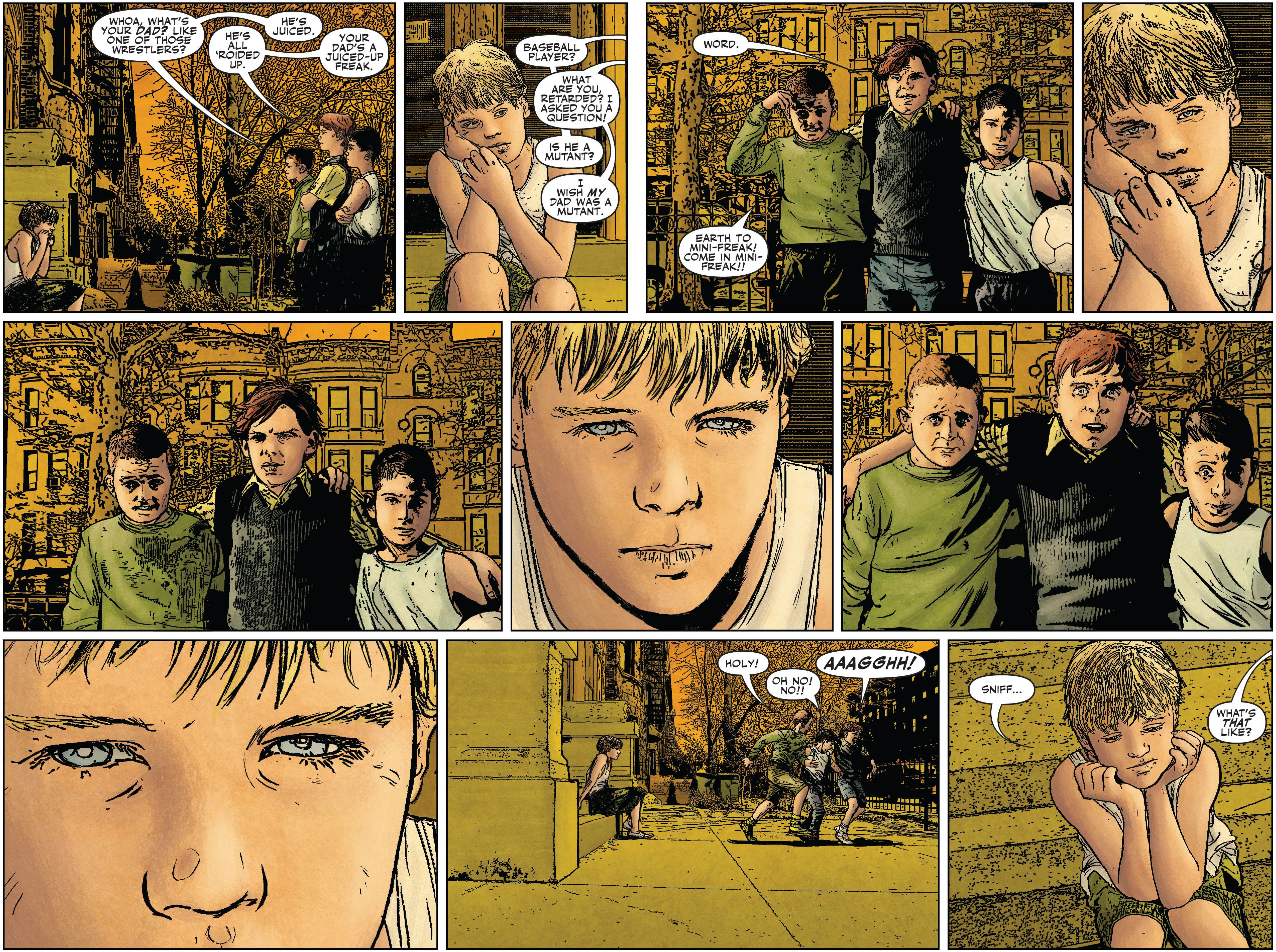
MIGHTY AVENGERS #13

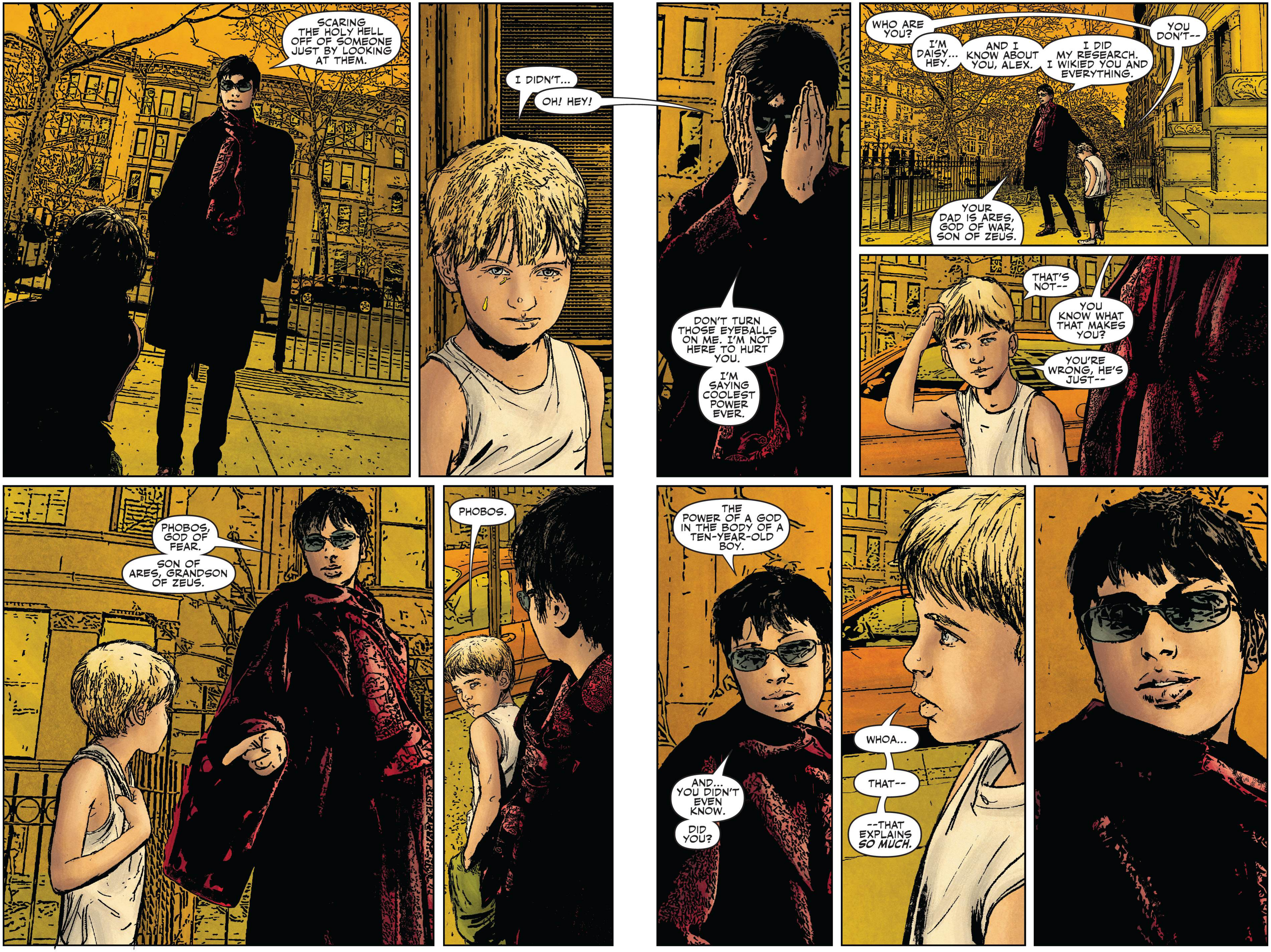
PORTLAND, OREGON.
MT. TABOR PARK.
SIX MONTHS AGO.
HEY...
YOU KNOW, YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEONE.
YEAH? YOU DON'T SAY.
GUY NAME'A NICK FURY. MAYBE YOU HEARD OF 'IM.
USED TO RUN S.H.I.E.L.D.
TOP COP OF THE WORLD.
HOW DO *YOU* KNOW NICK FURY?

GUY FOUND ME--I WAS LIVING A NORMAL LIFE. GUY FOUND ME AND SAID, "HEY, DAISY JOHNSON, GUESS WHAT?"
"YOUR FATHER, WHO YOU NEVER MET, WAS THIS SLEAZEBALL SUPER-VILLAIN AND HE AND YOUR MOMMY MADE A BABY AND BECAUSE HIS GENETICS WERE ALL SCREWY, NOW YOUR GENETICS ARE ALL SCREWY AND YOU HAVE EARTHQUAKE POWERS."
"YOU'RE NOT A MUTANT--BUT YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE."
AND HE SAID TO ME--HE SAID: "HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.?"
AND I SAID: "BOY WOULD I!" WHO WOULDN'T?
BEATS FINISHING HIGH SCHOOL.
AND HE SAID: "HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO ON A SECRET MISSION FOR ME?"
AND I SAID: "SURE. WHAT KIND OF MISSION?"
"WELL," HE SAID, "WE'RE GOING TO DECLARE WAR ON A COUNTRY AND NEVER TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT."
"AND NOT JUST YOU AND I..." HE SAID: "I'M GOING TO GATHER ALL THESE SUPER HEROES THAT OWE ME A FAVOR AND I'M GOING TO TRICK THEM INTO INVADING THIS COUNTRY."
"BECAUSE THAT'S HOW I ROLL."
BUT NOT FOR NOTHING. THAT COUNTRY MUST'A BEEN A BAD PLACE.
OH, SURE. NO DOUBT.
MY POINT IS NICK FURY HAD A SECRET WAR. THING IS...HE GOT CAUGHT.
COST HIM HIS JOB. AND ME?
I'M ALL OF EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD AND IN MANDATORY S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT RETIREMENT.
I'M AN AGENT OF NOTHING.
SO ARE YOU MAD AT HIM? THIS FURY?
I'M NOT SURE. DEPENDS WHAT HE SAYS NEXT.
WHAT IF HE REMINDED YOU THAT HE GOT YOU OUT OF A SPECIAL GROUP OF FILES HE WAS KEEPING?
A CATERPILLAR FILE. KIDS WITH POTENTIAL HE WAS KEEPING HIS EYE ON.
AND HE KEPT THESE FILES TO HIMSELF. THAT NOBODY HAS THEM BUT HIM.
NOT S.H.I.E.L.D., NOT THE PRESIDENT, NOT THE C.I.A. JUST HIM.
AND THAT HE WANTS TO PULL THE OTHER FILES AND START GATHERING THE OTHER CATERPILLARS?
AND HE WANTS YOU TO HELP HIM...
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY THEN?

YOU WANT TO TAKE YOUR CATERPILLARS AND TURN THEM INTO BUTTERFLIES.
YES.
WELL, I GUESS MY FIRST QUESTION WOULD BE... WHY?
BECAUSE SOMETHING BAD IS GOING DOWN, AND WE NEED TO BE READY.
AND OF ALL THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SUPER HEROES, MUTANTS, POLICE, F.B.I. AGENTS, FIREMEN, AND OTHER ASSORTED DO-GOODERS IN THE WORLD, YOU NEED TO BUILD A TEAM OF CATERPILLARS--
YES, I DO.
BECAUSE...
BECAUSE WE CAN'T TRUST ANYONE. AND THESE KIDS, THE CATERPILLARS...
...NO ONE *KNOWS* THEM. THEM WE CAN TRUST.
THE SAYING GOES: YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET A ROTTEN APPLE, YOU DON'T PICK THE APPLE FROM THE GROUND, YOU PICK IT OFF THE TREE.
PICK EM OFF THE TREE.
BY THE WAY, THAT IS THE WORST DISGUISE EVER, NICK.

242 Street Station
THE BRONX.
1
9
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO, BOY?
I'M JUST--
BOY, WHEN I SAY YOU COME HOME AFTER SCHOOL, THAT MEANS YOU GO *STRAIGHT HOME!*
I DON'T HAVE TO BE WORRYING ABOUT *YOU* ON TOP OF *EVERYTHING ELSE!*
IF *YOU'RE* NOT HOME... WHAT DO YOU CARE?
LISTEN TO ME, BOY.
I'M AN AVENGER NOW!
I CAN'T CONTROL WHEN AND WHERE THAT WILL TAKE ME.
BUT IT'S *IMPORTANT WORK* AND I NEED YOU TO BE WHERE I *TELL* YOU TO BE!
AND YOU WILL LEARN TO *RESPECT* ME.
LIKE YOU RESPECT *YOUR* FATHER?


WHOA, WHAT'S YOUR *DAD?* LIKE ONE OF THOSE WRESTLERS?
HE'S JUICED.
HE'S ALL 'ROIDED UP.
YOUR DAD'S A JUICED-UP FREAK.
BASEBALL PLAYER?
WHAT ARE YOU, RETARDED? I ASKED YOU A QUESTION!
IS HE A MUTANT?
I WISH *MY* DAD WAS A MUTANT.
WORD.
EARTH TO MINI-FREAK! COME IN MINI-FREAK!!
HOLY!
OH NO! NO!!
AAAGGHH!
SNIFF...
WHAT'S *THAT* LIKE?

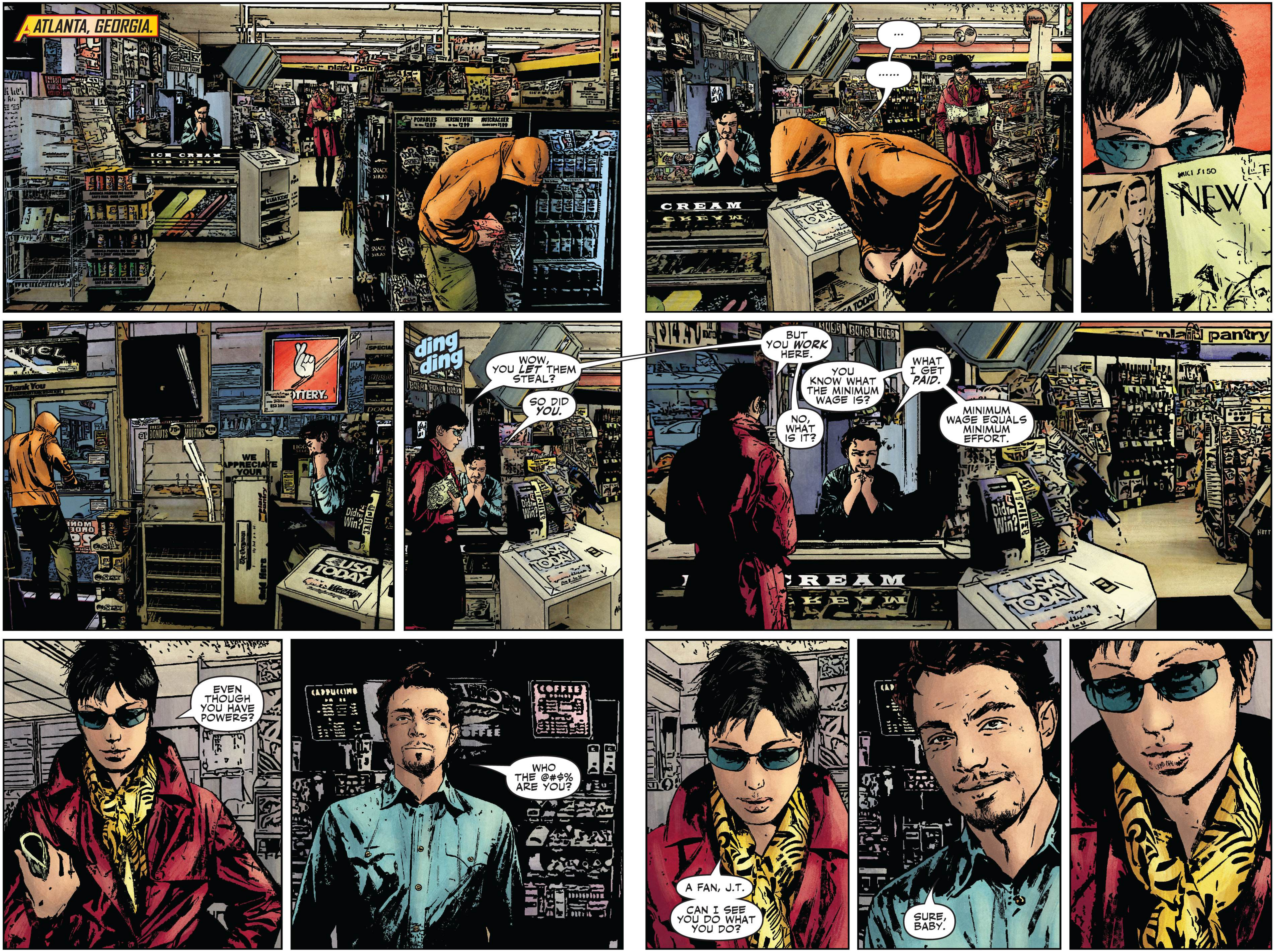

SCARING THE HOLY HELL OFF OF SOMEONE JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM.
I DIDN'T...
OH! HEY!
DON'T TURN THOSE EYEBALLS ON ME. I'M NOT HERE TO HURT YOU.
I'M SAYING COOLEST POWER EVER.
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU DON'T--
I'M DAISY... HEY.
AND I KNOW ABOUT YOU, ALEX.
I DID MY RESEARCH. I WIKIED YOU AND EVERYTHING.
YOUR DAD IS ARES, GOD OF WAR, SON OF ZEUS.
THAT'S NOT--
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MAKES YOU?
YOU'RE WRONG, HE'S JUST--
PHOBOS, GOD OF FEAR.
SON OF ARES, GRANDSON OF ZEUS.
PHOBOS.
THE POWER OF A GOD IN THE BODY OF A TEN-YEAR-OLD BOY.
AND... YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW.
DID YOU?
WHOA...
THAT--
--THAT EXPLAINS *SO MUCH.*

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO.
HE *DOESN'T* LIKE YOU, GI.
IF-HEY- IF HE DID-- OKAY, I'M NOT TRYING TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS, BUT HE DOESN'T.
YOU JUST GOT TO-- *HEY!*
BOOM!
HEY!
MY BAG.

CAJA DE MUERTOS, PUERTO RICO.
WHAT THE--?
U--

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO.
AAAGGH!
CRASH
BOOOM
HI. YO YO RODRIGUEZ, RIGHT?
HI. I'M DAISY.
WELL, THAT WAS A WHOLE THING. HOW YOU FEELING?
WHAT THE--I--WHAT DID--?
WELL... YOU RAN REAL FAST.
AND THEN YOUR BODY SLINGSHOTTED BACK TO THE EXACT PLACE YOU STARTED.
HOW--WHAT?
I-I...
DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR *DAD* IS?

OH *NO.*
YOU DO?
@#$%!
THAT'S A YES?
I DO.
JOHNNY HORTON.
I KNOW.
THE GRIFFIN.
STOP. I KNOW.
GREAT! SO I'M A *MUTANT?*
ACTUALLY, YOU'RE NOT.
NOT THAT THERE'S--
--ANYTHING WRONG WITH IT, SURE.
SO, WHAT? MY DAD'S MESSED-UP JUNK MESSED ME UP?
WELL, THAT'S A GLASS-HALF-EMPTY LOOK AT IT.
WAIT! *WHO* THE HELL ARE YOU?
HOW DID YOU KNOW TO BE HERE? HOW DID YOU KNOW I WOULD DO THIS?
I DIDN'T. BUT SOMEONE *ELSE* DID.
SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP YOU.
SO, WAIT, SO YOU THINK I COULD DO THAT *AGAIN?*
LET'S FIND AN OPEN SPACE.


ATLANTA, GEORGIA.
...
......
ding ding
WOW, YOU *LET* THEM STEAL?
SO DID *YOU.*
BUT YOU *WORK* HERE.
YOU KNOW WHAT THE MINIMUM WAGE IS?
NO, WHAT IS IT?
WHAT I GET *PAID.*
MINIMUM WAGE EQUALS MINIMUM EFFORT.
EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE POWERS?
WHO THE @#$% ARE YOU?
A FAN, J.T.
CAN I SEE YOU DO WHAT YOU DO?
SURE, BABY.

SO...
GUY CAME UP TO ME OUTSIDE THIS CLUB THE OTHER WEEK...
CHAIN JUST LIKE THIS.
I WAS WITH HIS SISTER. NOT "*WITH*" WITH, JUST HANGING. BUT STILL, HE DIDN'T LIKE IT.
GUY COMES UP, WITH THE CHAIN, SWINGS IT RIGHT AT MY HEAD.
I *CAUGHT* IT. JUST OUTTA REFLEX OR SOMETHING.
WOW.
FABOOM
BUT, HEY, HOW DID YOU KNOW I COULD DO THAT?
YOU SEEN ME DO IT?

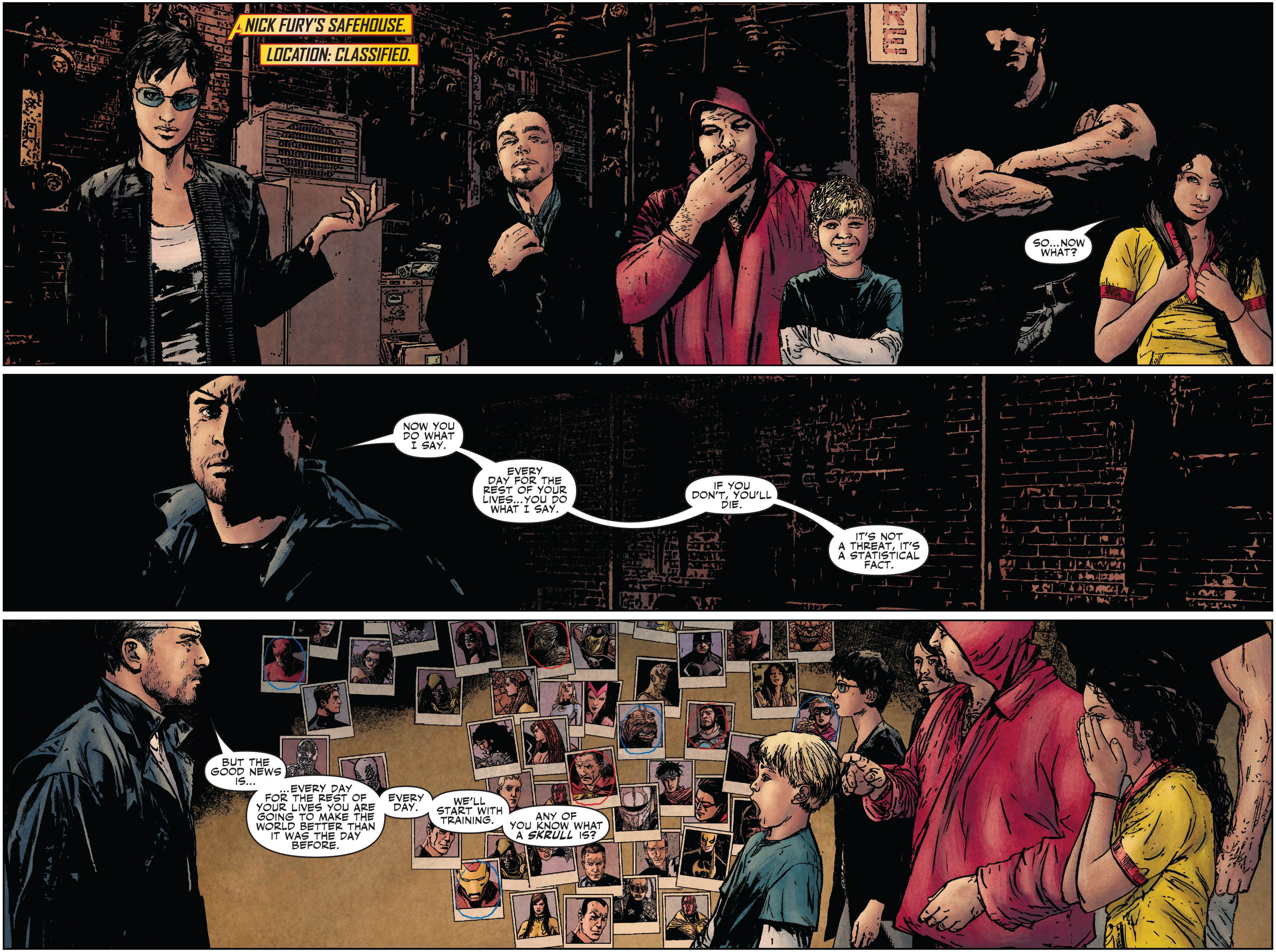
NOPE.
NO?
NO, BUT I KNOW HOW YOU DO IT.
YOU DO?
YOU DON'T?
I, UH, I *DON'T*, ACTUALLY.
YOU KNOW WHO YOUR GRANDFATHER WAS?
NO.
REALLY?
REALLY.
THE ORIGINAL GHOST RIDER.
WHAT?
THE PHANTOM RIDER.
NO @#$%.
AND YOU GOT THE HAND-ME-DOWN POWERS OF A--
THAT IS *TOTALLY BALLS, MAN! 'TIS KICK ASS!*
THAT'S *AWESOME.*
AND I'M HERE TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM *ALL THIS.*
WAIT*!* YOU-- YOU A BAD GUY?
A BAD GUY? NO.
YOU HYDRA?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHO YOUR OWN *GRANDFATHER* WAS BUT YOU KNOW WHAT *HYDRA* IS?
I HAVE THE HISTORY CHANNEL. I JUST NEVER MET MY DAD.
I'M NOT HYDRA.
YOU S.H.I.E.L.D.? BECAUSE IF YOU'RE S.H.I.E.L.D., IN MY BOOK YOU MIGHT AS *WELL* BE HYDRA. ONE SIDE OF THE SAME BULL--
YES, WELL, THIS ISN'T S.H.I.E.L.D.
A.I.M.?
HOW ABOUT YOU COME WITH ME AND MAKE SOMETHING OF YOURSELF INSTEAD OF SITTING BEHIND THE COUNTER OF LIFE.
"THE COUNTER OF LIFE?"
DID YOU ACTUALLY SAY THAT OUT LOUD?
AND ABOUT THIS *"MAKING SOMETHING OF MYSELF."*
THERE *MONEY* IN MAKING SOMETHING OF MYSELF?

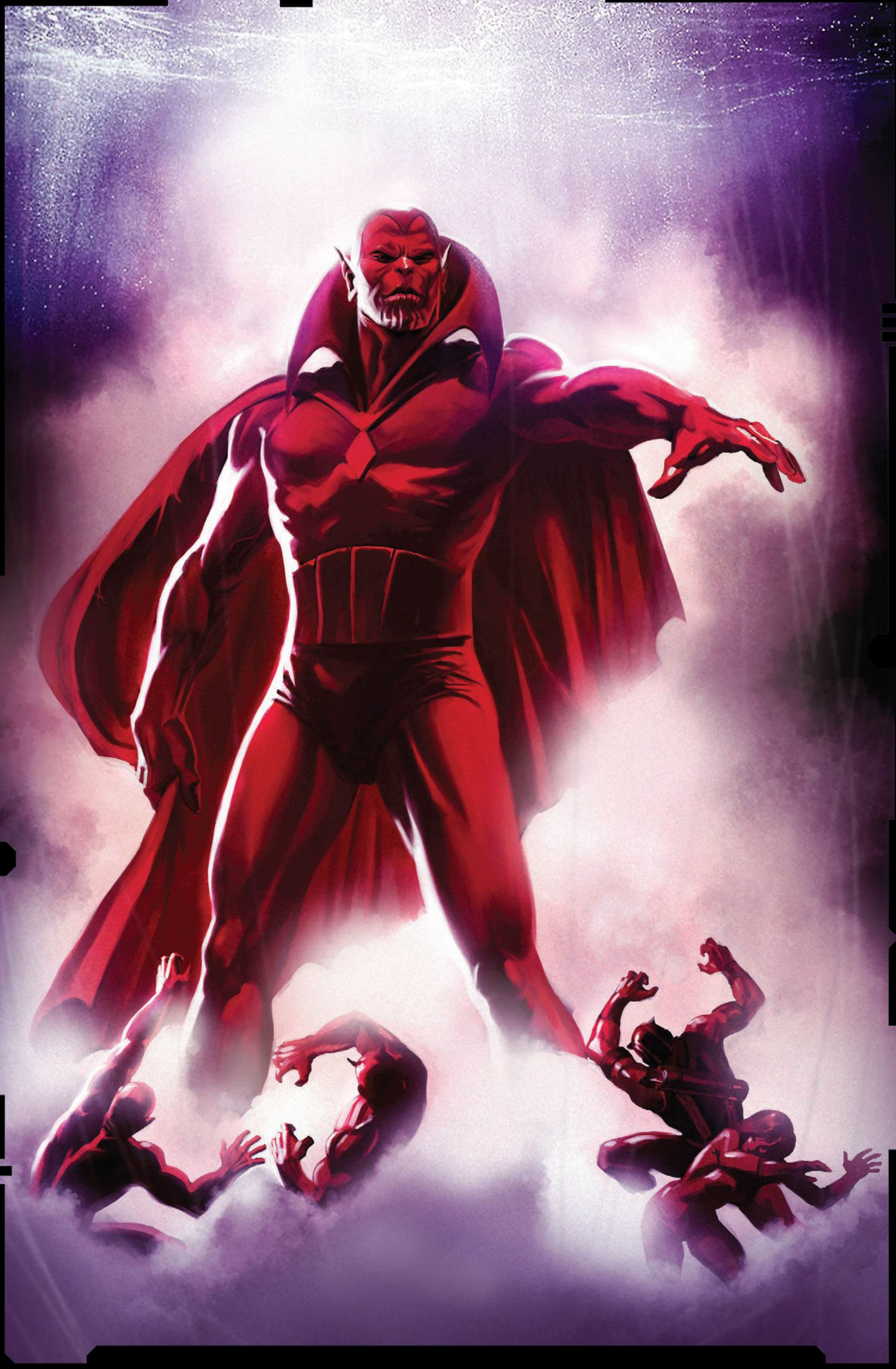
X-FACTOR INVESTIGATIONS.
MUTANT TOWN.
OH, UH.
HI.
MY NAME'S LAYLA MILLER. YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ME.
HI, YES, UM...
I CAN'T COME WITH YOU.
IF I WAS TO JOIN YOUR RAGTAG MOTLEY CREW, IT WOULDN'T WORK.
YOU'D FAIL WITH ME. WITHOUT ME YOU WON'T. JUST HOW IT IS.
I NEED TO BE HERE FOR SOMETHING LATER ANYHOW. THE MUTANTS NEED ME.
I HAVE TO GO WHERE I'M NEEDED. WE ALL DO.
WOW, YOU ARE FREAKING ME OUT.
YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE THROUGH THIS.
THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE ONE OF THE GREATS. MAYBE.
BUT YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE A LOT BEFORE THAT HAPPENS. JUST F.Y.I.
HOW DO--?
I KNOW STUFF.
IT WAS SUPREMELY COOL MEETING YOU.

GREENWICH VILLAGE, NEW YORK.
FORMER HOME OF DOCTOR STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS.
CAME A LONG WAY TO SEE THE DOCTOR?
YEAH, *UH*, I DIDN'T KNOW HE CLOSED UP SHOP.
ALL THE WAY FROM HAWAII...
AND, *UH*, HOW DID YOU KNOW ***THAT?***
BECAUSE I WENT ALL THE WAY TO HAWAII TO ***MEET*** YOU, AND YOU'D ALREADY GOTTEN ON A PLANE.
SO ***I'M*** A BIT PUNCHY. ***HI!***
WHO ARE YOU? IS THIS A TEST? PLEASE-***PLEASE*** TELL DOCTOR STRANGE I NEED HELP.
I-I HAVE CONNECTIONS TO THE MAGICS AND I-I DON'T ***UNDERSTAND*** THEM.
THIS BOOK-THIS BOOK IS ALL MY FATHER LEFT ME AND IT'S IN A LANGUAGE I DON'T--

IT'S NOT A TEST.
THIS IS NOT A MAGIC THING.
MY NAME IS DAISY AND I WAS IN HAWAII TO MEET YOU BECAUSE I *CAN* HELP YOU.
YOUR FATHER WAS A DUDE NAMED DOCTOR DRUID. IT'S NOT MAGIC IN YOU, IT'S DNA OF A--WELL, IT'S MONSTER DNA.
IT'S NOT MAGIC...IT'S CHEMICAL.
THE GUY WHO SENT ME CAN HELP YOU FIGURE IT OUT.
Amerkan-Nation
OH, THANK GOD.
I-- I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.
'SOKAY.
"JERRY SLEDGE?
"JERRY SLEDGE?"

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.
LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER, HOLDING.
YEAH?
YOU MADE BAIL!
I *DID?*
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE WELCOME.
WHO ARE YOU?
CALM DOWN!
I BAILED YOU OUT. AND IN ABOUT A DAY, YOUR RECORD WON'T EXIST ANYMORE.
IT'LL BE LIKE THE FIGHT NEVER HAPPENED.
OR SO I'M TOLD.
I DIDN'T *START IT!*
I UNDERSTAND THAT.
I WAS *ON A DATE!* THE GUY- THE GUY--
SO YOU SAW?
I SAW THE WHOLE THING.
YES.
THE GUY WAS A *COP.*
YOU REALLY ***SHOULDN'T*** HIT COPS.
HE HIT ME FIRST.
I SAW. STILL.
I--*UH,* WHO ARE YOU?


NICK FURY'S SAFEHOUSE.
LOCATION: CLASSIFIED.
SO...NOW WHAT?
NOW YOU DO WHAT I SAY.
EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES...YOU DO WHAT I SAY.
IF YOU DON'T, YOU'LL DIE.
IT'S NOT A THREAT, IT'S A STATISTICAL FACT.
BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS...
...EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE THE WORLD BETTER THAN IT WAS THE DAY BEFORE.
EVERY DAY.
WE'LL START WITH TRAINING.
ANY OF YOU KNOW WHAT A SKRULL IS?



MIGHTY AVENGERS #14

YEARS AGO.
THE SENTRY.
AAEEII!!
OH MAN, WHAT NOW? CAN'T EVEN FLY FROM ONE SIDE OF THE CITY TO THE OTHER WITHOUT SOME--
SOMEBODY CALL SOMEBODY!
BANK NAT
OKAY, OKAY HEY!
THERE'S NO NEED TO PANIC, PEOPLE!
YOU'RE NOT THOR!
SOMEONE CALL THOR!
JEEZ.
MAKE SOME MORE NOISE!
GUYS, GET THE CAR AND LET'S GET--
BAM BAM
THE VOID?
I-I THOUGHT I KILLED YOU.
BAM BAM
AND I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU... YOU CAN'T.

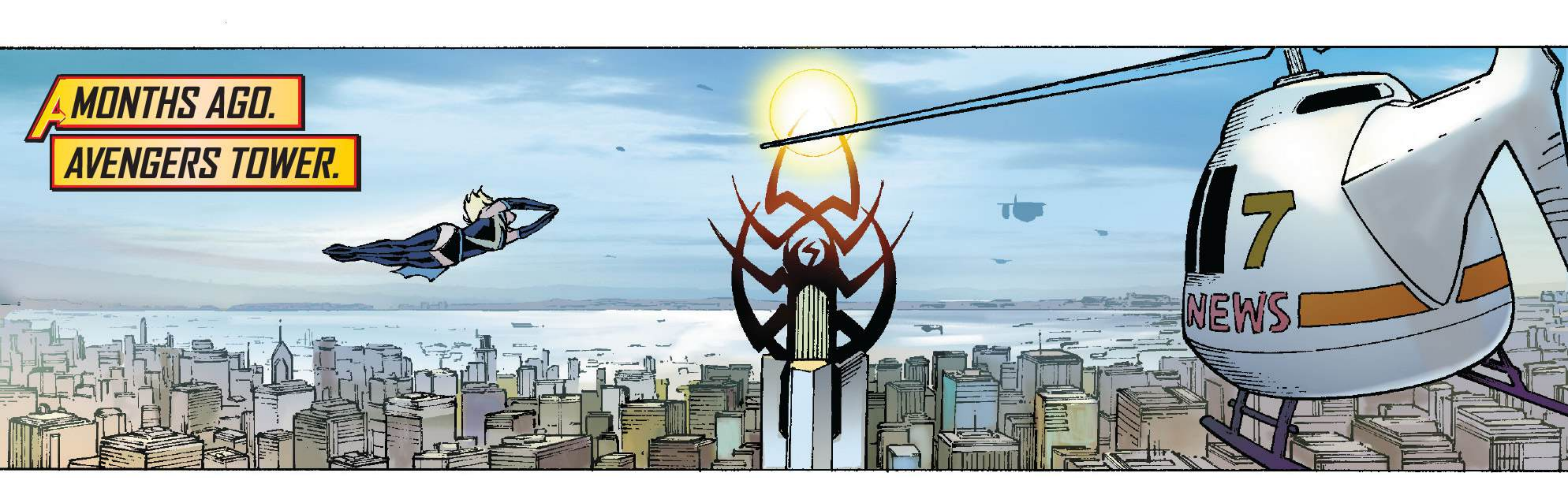
BAM
BAM
BAM
I KILLED YOU! I *KILLED* YOU!
BULLETS DON'T WORK ON HIM, GUYS!
BUT IF IT MAKES YA FEEL BETTER ABOUT YOURSELVES, GO RIGHT AHEAD!
GUYS, LET ME HANDLE THE BIPOLAR SCHIZOI--
WHAT THE @#$% IS *THAT* NOW?
THAT AIN'T--
HUMAN.
DID-DID HE JUST HIGHTAIL IT?
CRASH
I TOLD YOU, HE'S NUTS.

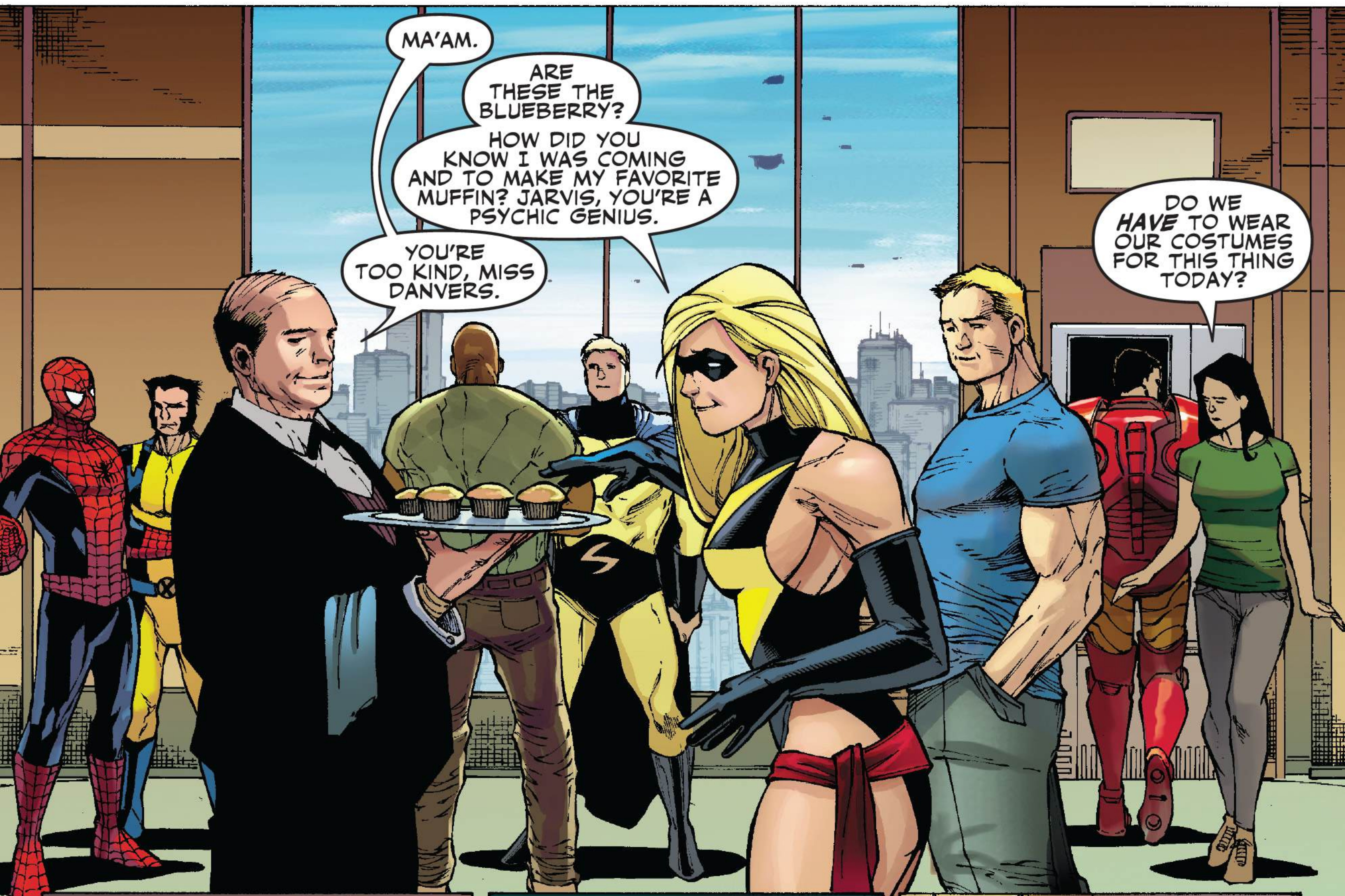
NO!
FABOOM
HOOF!
CRUNCXH

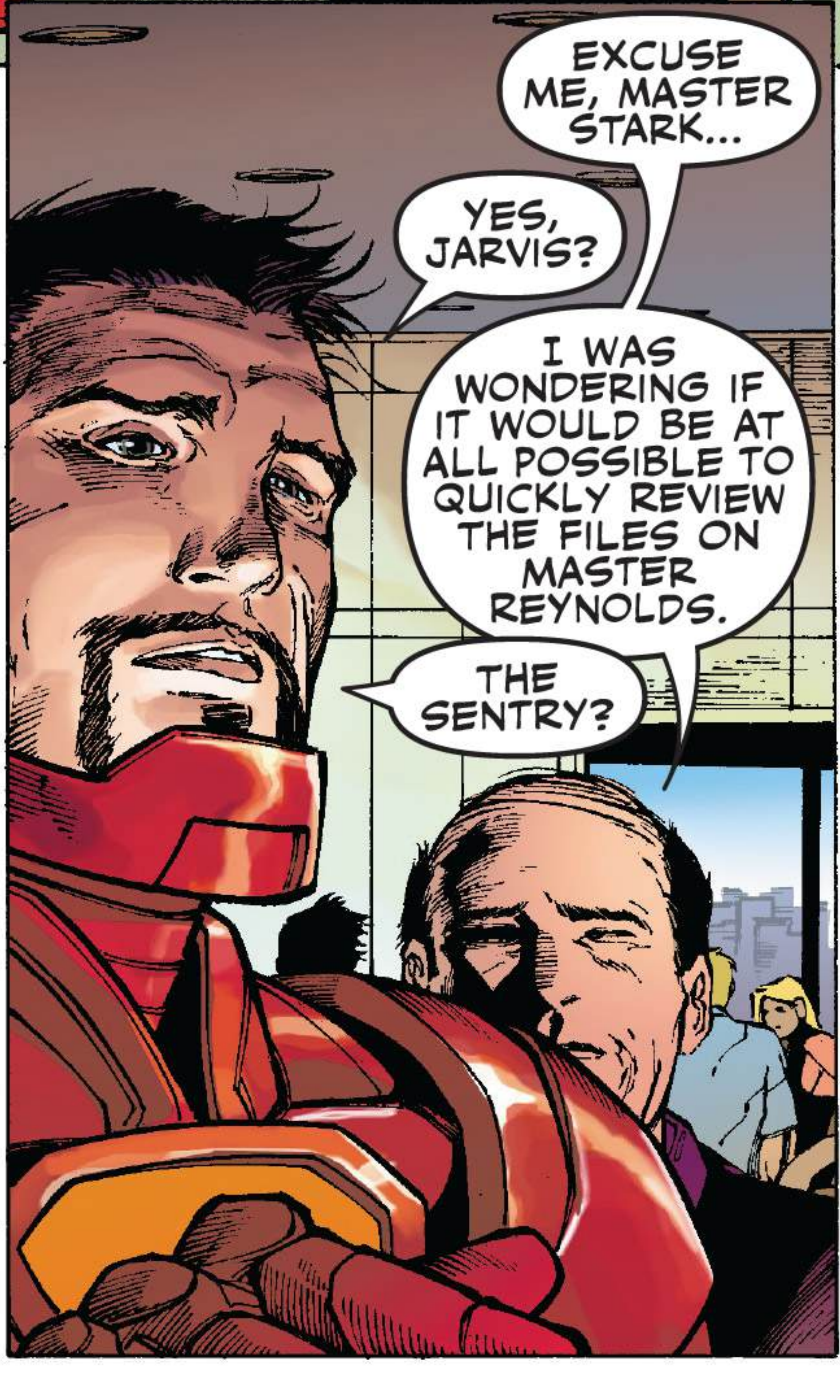
OKAY, SO...
WHAT ARE YOU AND WHY ARE YOU--?
RUNNCCH

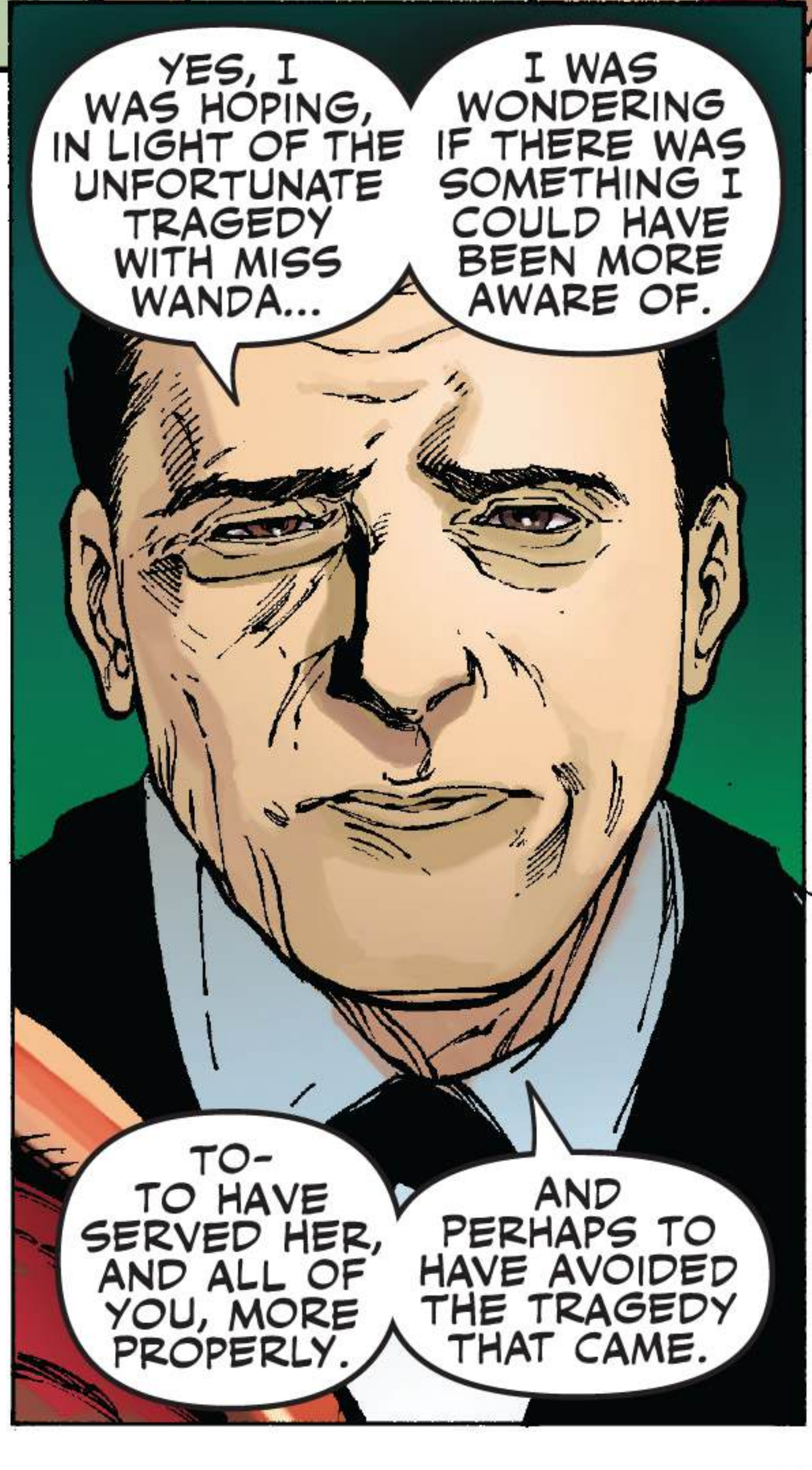
I DIDN'T AAGGH!
YOU'RE OKAY, BOB.
REED? I'M--
IN THE BAXTER BUILDING.
WE CAUGHT YOU AFTER THE EXPLOSION BUT BEFORE YOU MADE A MESS OF PENNSYLVANIA ON IMPACT.
WHAT *WAS* THAT, REED?
ALIENS. SKRULL.
CRAZY BASTACHES ARE CRAZIER DEN YOU.
THAT'S WHAT A SKRULL LOOKS LIKE?
WHEN THEY HAVEN'T SHIFTED SHAPE, AS IS THEIR WAY, YES.
WHAT WAS THAT?
THEY GOT IT IN FOR US, IS WHAT.
BETWEEN THIS, THAT AND THE KREE/SKRULL WAR, THE SKRULL ROYAL FAMILY SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN QUITE A DISLIKING TO ME AND *MY* FAMILY.
SO THEY CAME *ALL THE WAY* HERE FROM *OUT THERE* TO KILL THEMSELVES KILLING *YOU?*
THEY HATE YOU *THAT* MUCH?
WELL, THERE'S BILLIONS OF SKRULLS ON DOZENS OF WORLDS... THEY CAN'T *ALL* HATE ME.
YOU SAVED THE CITY, BOB.
YOU TOOK THE HIT RIGHT IN THE FACE AND YOU LIVED TO TELL THE TALE.
I'M OKAY, THOUGH?
YOU'RE OKAY.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

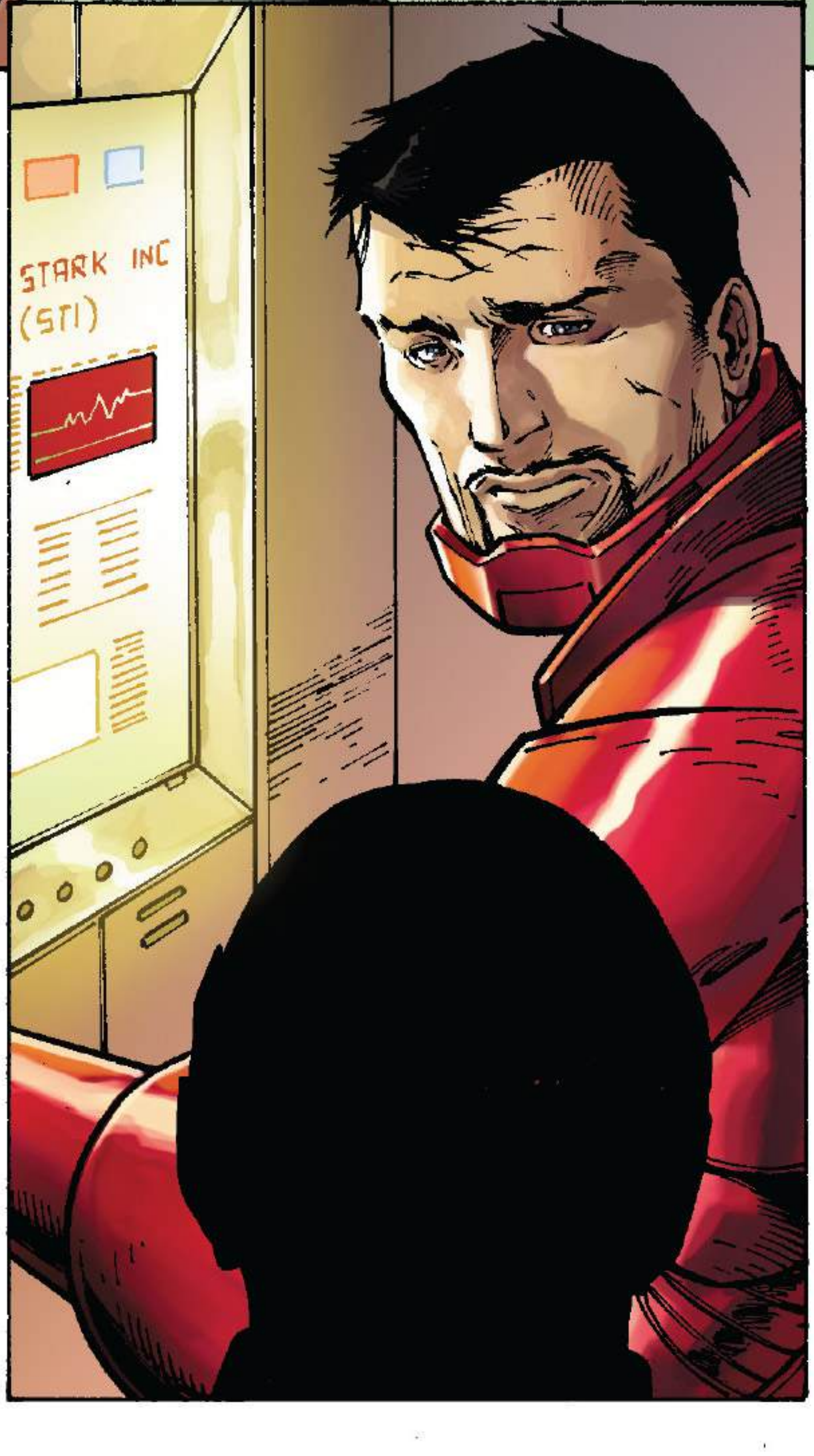
I THINK I'M--
WHAT?
I'M JUST TIRED.
HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT?
HOPEFULLY THE WORD GETS BACK TO THE HEAD SKRULLS THAT WE'RE NOT THE CHUMPS DEY ALL *THINK* WE ARE.
YOU'RE A GOOD FRIEND, BOB.
I WON'T SOON FORGET.


MONTHS AGO.
AVENGERS TOWER.
7
NEWS


MA'AM.
ARE THESE THE BLUEBERRY?
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS COMING AND TO MAKE MY FAVORITE MUFFIN? JARVIS, YOU'RE A PSYCHIC GENIUS.
YOU'RE TOO KIND, MISS DANVERS.
DO WE *HAVE* TO WEAR OUR COSTUMES FOR THIS THING TODAY?


EXCUSE ME, MASTER STARK...
YES, JARVIS?
I WAS WONDERING IF IT WOULD BE AT ALL POSSIBLE TO QUICKLY REVIEW THE FILES ON MASTER REYNOLDS.
THE SENTRY?


YES, I WAS HOPING, IN LIGHT OF THE UNFORTUNATE TRAGEDY WITH MISS WANDA...
I WAS WONDERING IF THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD HAVE BEEN MORE AWARE OF.
TO-TO HAVE SERVED HER, AND ALL OF YOU, MORE PROPERLY.
AND PERHAPS TO HAVE AVOIDED THE TRAGEDY THAT CAME.


STARK INC
(STI)

JARVIS. WANDA'S BREAKDOWN WAS NOT *YOUR* FAULT.
IN PART IT WAS, SIR. I WAS WITH HER EVERY DAY. I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE SIGNS.
WELL, THEN WE'RE BOTH TO BLAME.
I CAN ONLY SPEAK FOR MYSELF, SIR.
EITHER WAY, ALL AVENGERS FILES ARE OPEN TO YOU.
AND YOU NEVER HAVE TO ASK ME PERMISSION, JARVIS.
WHO DO I TRUST MORE THAN YOU?
PASSWORD:
****
Q
E
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, I'M HERE.
ACCESS GRANTED
THANK YOU, SIR.
REAL NAME: ROBERT
OCCUPATION: HERO
IDENTITY: SECRET
LEGAL STATUS: CIT
THE UNITED STATES
CRIMINAL RECORD
PLACE OF BIRTH: UN
GROUP AFFILIATION:
BASE OF OPERATION
WATCHTOWER
HEIGHT: 6 FT. 2 IN.
WEIGHT: 200 LBS.
EYES: BLUE
HAIR: BLOND

WHAT FRUSTRATES ME IS WE HAD NOT *ONE* WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO ELIMINATE THE SENTRY...
...WE HAD *TWO.*
BE THAT AS IT MAY... WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?
MY EMPRESS...NOW WE SIMPLY WAIT FOR HIM TO SELF-DESTRUCT.
AND HE WILL.
THAT'S YOUR PLAN?
WE HAVE DECIDED TO LET THE HULK SITUATION AND THE REGISTRATION ACT SITUATION COME TO A BOIL AND DO OUR WORK FOR US...
I'M SAYING TO YOU THAT *ANYTHING* COULD GET HIM TO SNAP...
CERTAINLY EITHER OF THOSE THINGS COULD.
I'M SAYING... LET THEM.
THE HUMANS ARE DOING OUR WORK *FOR* US. THOR IS GONE. THE WITCH IS GONE. DOCTOR STRANGE WILL BUCKLE...
YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT STRANGE.
YOU'LL SEE. HE'S AN ARROGANT MAGICIAN WHO COULD BE PUSHED TO ANY--
HE'S A PRACTICED SORCERER--
YOU'LL SEE.
THE SENTRY. WE'RE HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE SENTRY...
YES.

HE'S GOING TO KILL HIMSELF.
AND HE'S GOING TO TAKE OTHERS WITH HIM.
I'M NOT SPEAKING COLORFULLY.
HE'S MENTALLY DISEASED.
HE CREATED AN ENTIRE OTHER BEING. A SOMETIMES-HUMAN, SOMETIMES-MONSTER, SOMETIMES-PHANTOM, THAT *HE* CALLS THE VOID.
AND WHENEVER THE SENTRY DOES GOOD FOR PEOPLE, THE VOID DOES THE OPPOSITE.
BUT THEY'RE BOTH HIM.
HE CREATED THE VOID. HE *IS* THE VOID.
OKAY, THAT *IS* CRAZY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO SLEEP IN THE SAME BUILDING WITH HIM.
WELL, WE BOTH DO.
AND MIND YOU, THIS IS THE STATE HE WAS IN--
--HOW *INSANE* HE WAS *BEFORE* HIS TROUBLES WITH THE MUTANT MASTERMIND *AND* HAVING THE MEMORY OF THE SENTRY *AND* HIS EXISTENCE WIPED AWAY FROM THE EARTH'S CONSCIOUSNESS.
HE DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER MEETING A SKRULL BEFORE.
SO WE DO WHAT WE DO...? GET AN AGENT IN THERE CLOSE TO HIM AND--
THE ONLY PEOPLE CLOSE TO HIM THAT ARE NOT AVENGERS OR THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE HIS WIFE AND HIS THERAPIST.
HIS THERAPIST. THERE YOU GO.
BUT HERE'S THE RISK...

NO ONE KNOWS THE LIMITS OF HIS POWER SET. NOT EVEN STARK.
THAT'S WHY WE CAN'T DUPLICATE IT.
NO ONE KNOWS HIS TRUE POWER AND POTENTIAL.
IF WE GET AN AGENT IN *TOO* CLOSE, HE MAY DETECT THEM BEFORE WE WANT HIM TO.
WE MAY *ALREADY* BE TOO CLOSE.
I'M TELLING YOU--IT'S A RISK WHERE NONE NEED BE TAKEN.
BECAUSE I THINK HE IS GOING TO SELF-DESTRUCT *LONG* BEFORE WE EXECUTE A GROUND ATTACK.
AND IF BY SOME MIRACLE HE *DOESN'T*...HE, OF ALL HIS PEERS, WILL BE THE EASIEST TO MANIPULATE.
ALL ONE WOULD HAVE TO DO IS SHAPESHIFT INTO THE VOID.
TELL HIM THAT HE, THE SENTRY, HAS LAUNCHED THIS ENTIRE ATTACK WITH HIS MIND OR WHAT HAVE YOU...
...THAT HE HAS *BETRAYED* HIS PEOPLE. THAT *HE* MADE THIS HAPPEN...
...AND THE ONLY WAY FOR HIM TO *STOP* THE SLAUGHTER OF HIS FRIENDS AND PLANET IS TO HURL HIMSELF INTO THIS SYSTEM'S STAR AND END HIS LIFE.
AND IF *THAT* DOESN'T WORK?
HE EITHER FALLS INTO A COMPLETE CATATONIC STATE OR HAS A MENTAL COLLAPSE AND KILLS EVERYONE INVOLVED. HIS FRIENDS AND US INCLUDED.
IF HE'S SUCH A RISK WHY DOES STARK KEEP HIM AROUND?

THE SAVAGE LAND.
TODAY.
"BECAUSE HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO WITH HIM."
"WELL, WE FINALLY HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH TONY STARK."
JUST--HEY, MAN--SETTLE DOWN AND TALK TO ME. ARE YOU THE VISION?
MY NAME IS BOB REYNOLDS. I'M THE SENTRY. I'M AN AVENGER NOW. IF YOU'RE REALLY THE VISION, I CAN--
THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED, BOB.
YOU ALL REALLY NEED YOUR ASSES KICKED!

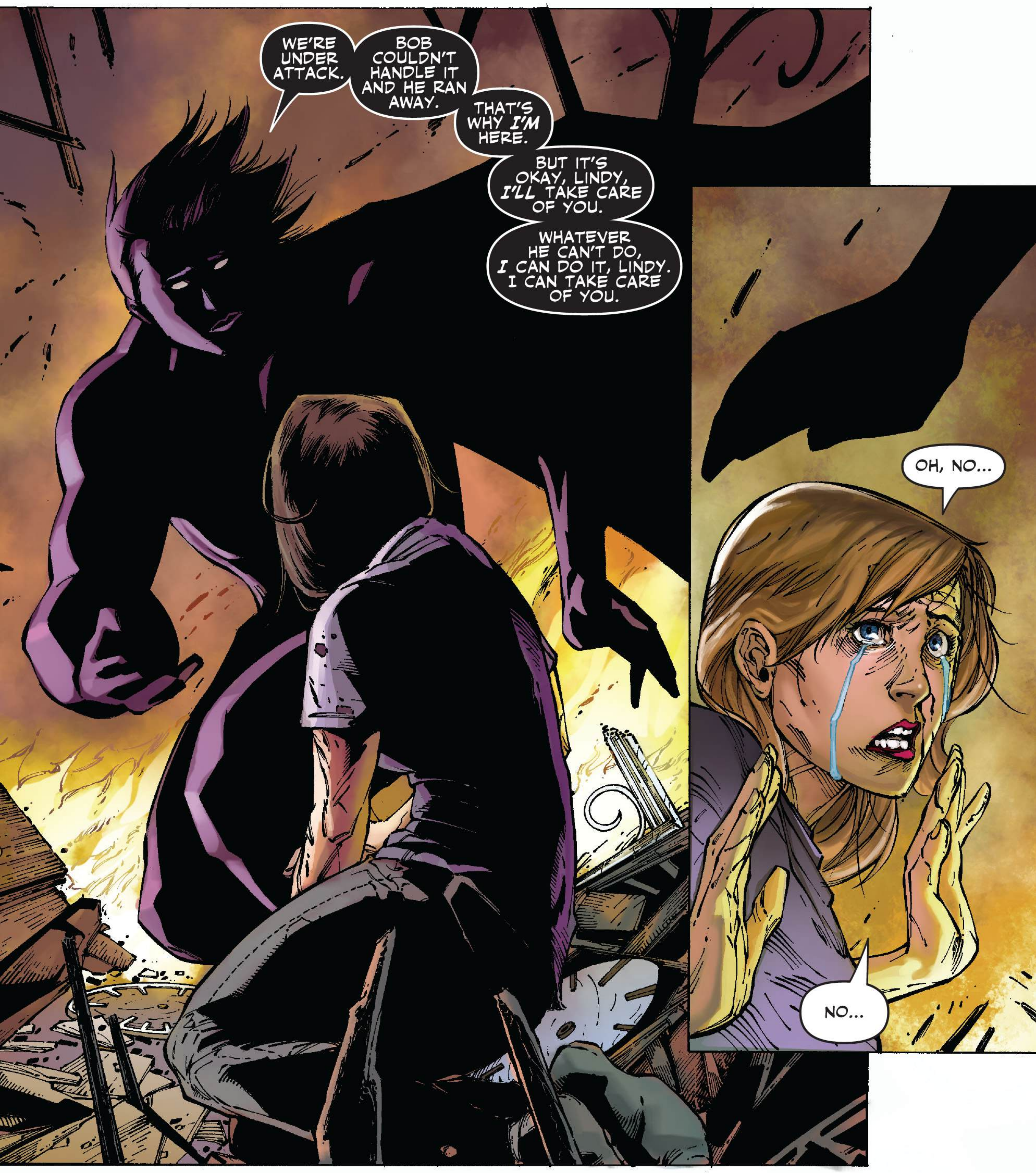
WHAT?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
YOU DID THIS, BOB. THIS IS *ALL* YOU.
I AM THE VOID AND I BROUGHT THIS TO YOU, BECAUSE I *AM* YOU.
NOOO!
YOU BIRTHED THIS INTO EXISTENCE. I'M HERE BECAUSE YOU WANTED IT.
EVERYTHING IS COMING TOGETHER JUST LIKE YOU PLANNED.
YOU'RE DESTROYING THEM ALL FOR FORGETTING YOU WHEN YOU NEEDED THEM THE MOST.
NNNNNO...

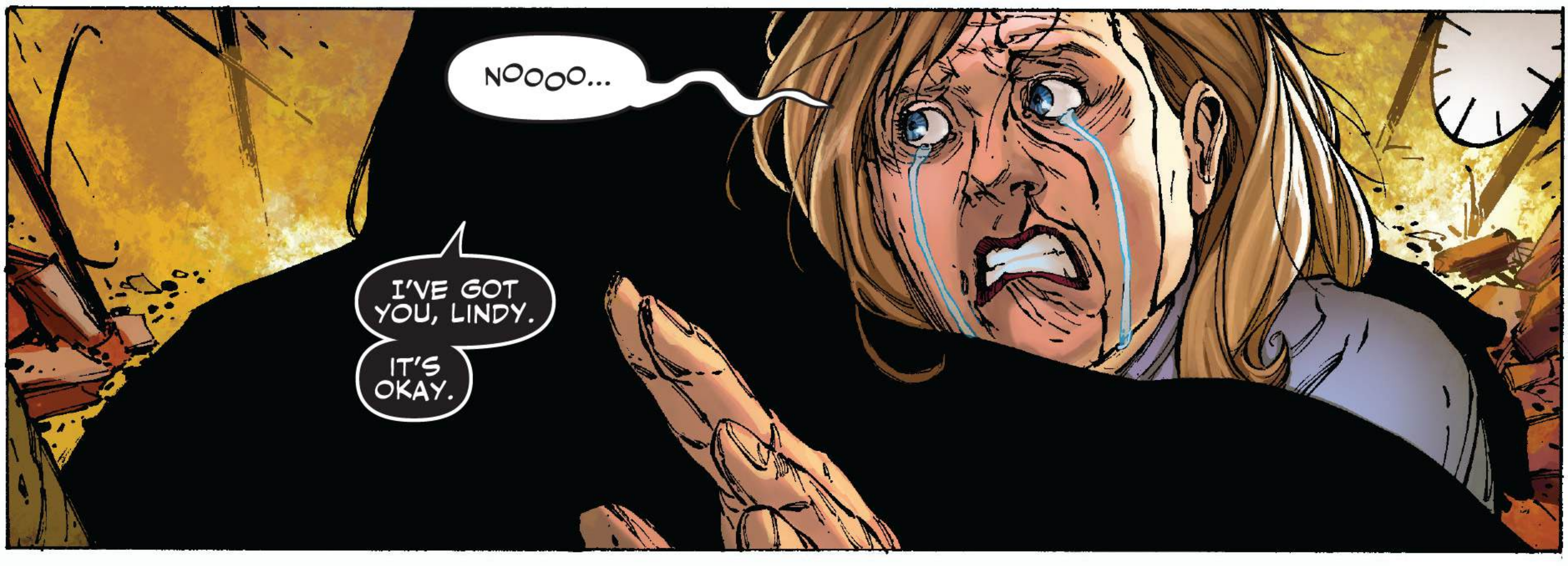
NOOO!

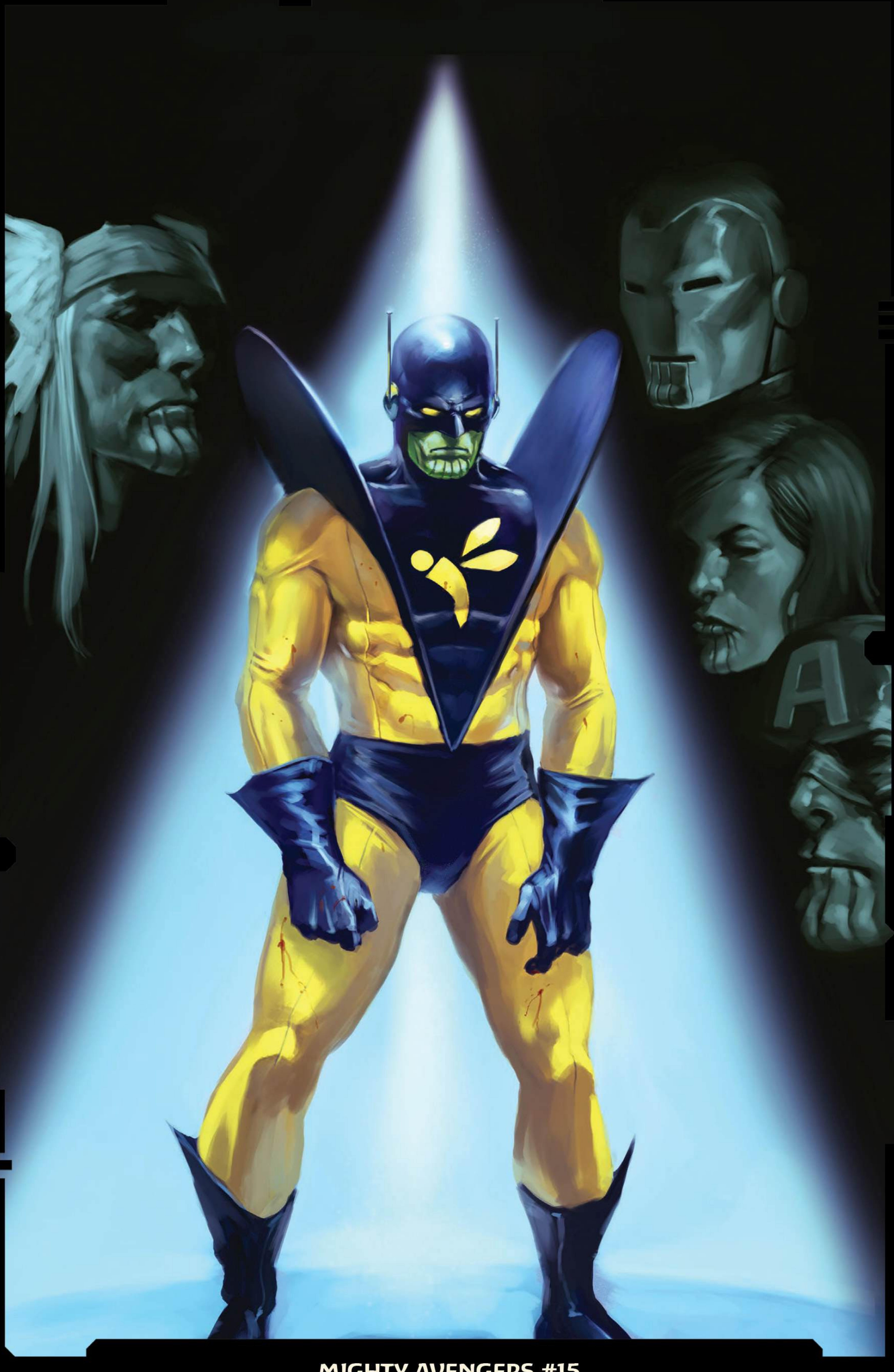
TIMES SQUARE.
NOW.
GUYS, THIS IS A LITTLE BIT OVER OUR HEADS, DON'T YOU THINK?
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? LEAVE?
I'M UNABLE TO PATCH INTO ANY EMERGENCY SERVERS.
MISS LINDY, MISS LINDY. YOU NEED TO WAKE UP.
MISS LINDY, THERE'S AN INTRUSION.
'SSGOIN' ON?
THE WATCHTOWER HAS BEEN BREACHED. THE CITY IS UNDER ATTACK.
BOOM
REEEEE
OH MY G-- CLOC, DO SOMETHING!
THE WATCHTOWER DEFENSE SYSTEMS ARE HAVING NO EFFECT.
BOOM
AAGGH!
SMAASH

D-DO YOU KNOW WHO MY HUSBAND IS? DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE?
TOUCH ME AND MY HUSBAND WILL KILL YOU.
I'M NOT EVEN A LITTLE JOKING.
SKROOM

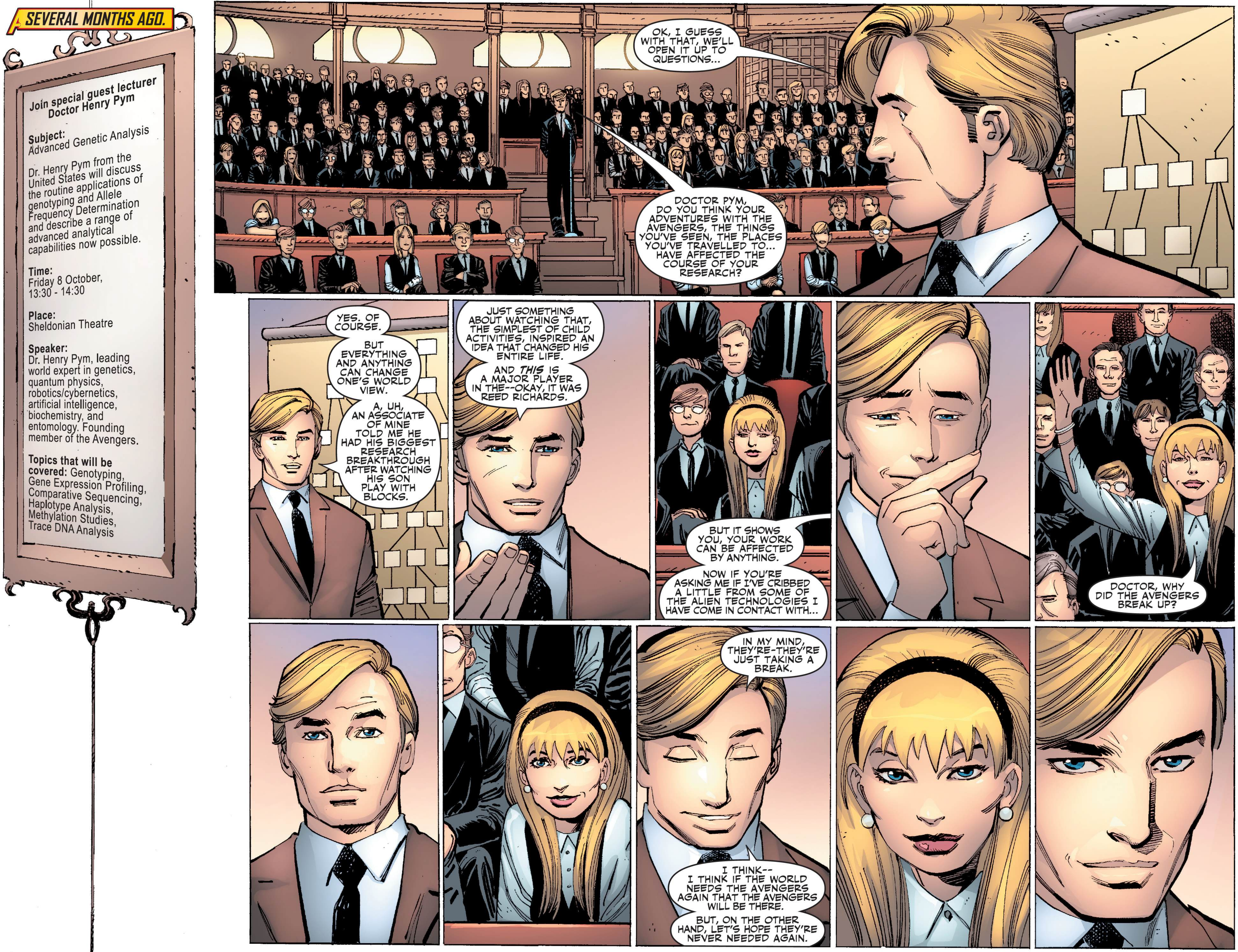
BOOOM
GGRRAAAGGHH!
WHABOOOM
BOOOM
WHO-WHO ARE YOU?
IT'S ME, LINDY.


WE'RE UNDER ATTACK.
BOB COULDN'T HANDLE IT AND HE RAN AWAY.
THAT'S WHY *I'M* HERE.
BUT IT'S OKAY, LINDY, *I'LL* TAKE CARE OF YOU.
WHATEVER HE CAN'T DO, *I* CAN DO IT, LINDY. I CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU.
OH, NO...
NO...


NOOOO...
I'VE GOT YOU, LINDY.
IT'S OKAY.



MIGHTY AVENGERS #15

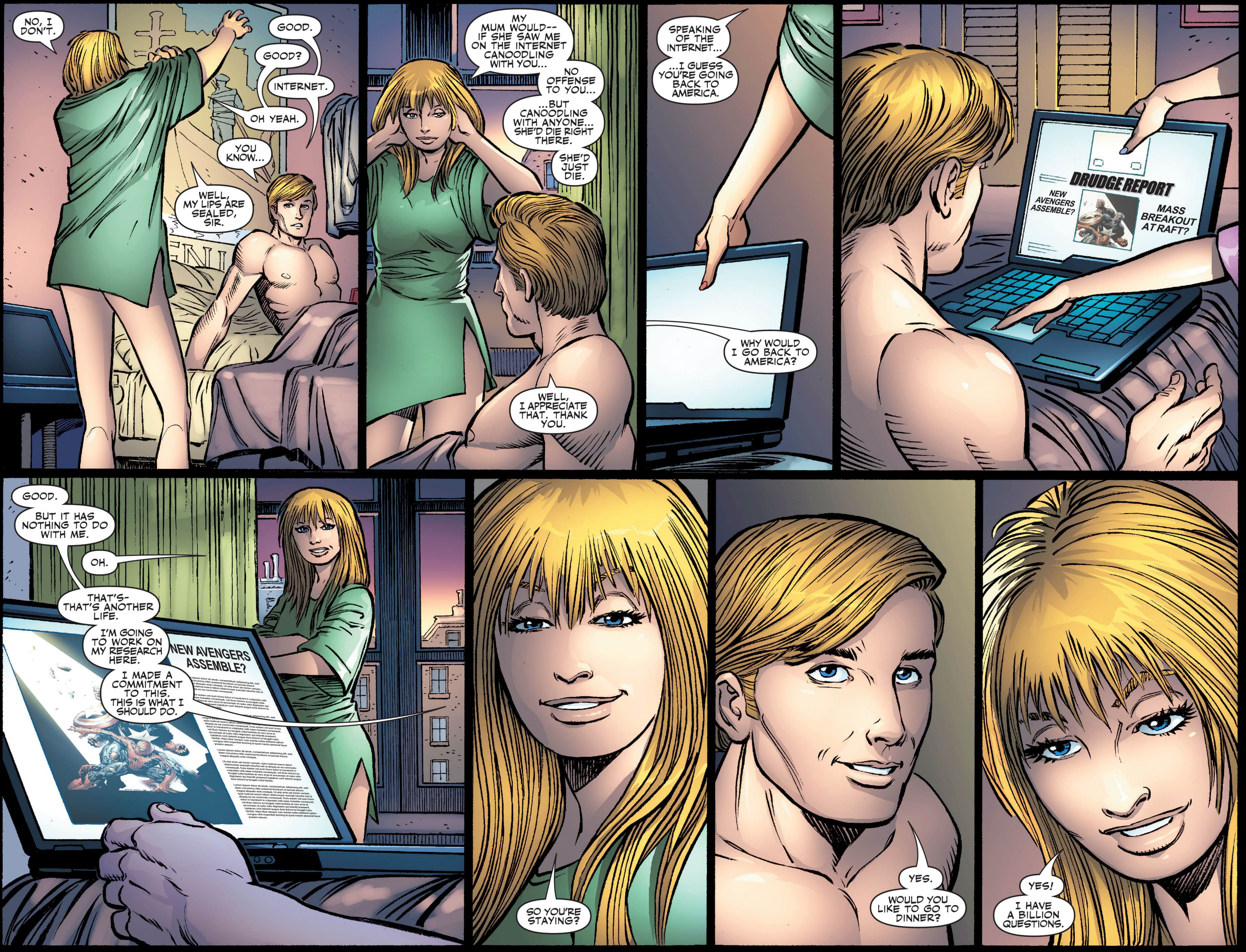

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.
Join special guest lecturer Doctor Henry Pym
Subject: Advanced Genetic Analysis
Dr. Henry Pym from the United States will discuss the routine applications of genotyping and Allele Frequency Determination and describe a range of advanced analytical capabilities now possible.
Time: Friday 8 October, 13:30 - 14:30
Place: Sheldonian Theatre
Speaker: Dr. Henry Pym, leading world expert in genetics, quantum physics, robotics/cybernetics, artificial intelligence, biochemistry, and entomology. Founding member of the Avengers.
Topics that will be covered: Genotyping, Gene Expression Profiling, Comparative Sequencing, Haplotype Analysis, Methylation Studies, Trace DNA Analysis
OK, I GUESS WITH THAT, WE'LL OPEN IT UP TO QUESTIONS...
DOCTOR PYM, DO YOU THINK YOUR ADVENTURES WITH THE AVENGERS, THE THINGS YOU'VE SEEN, THE PLACES YOU'VE TRAVELLED TO... HAVE AFFECTED THE COURSE OF YOUR RESEARCH?
YES. OF COURSE.
BUT EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING CAN CHANGE ONE'S WORLD VIEW.
A, UH, AN ASSOCIATE OF MINE TOLD ME HE HAD HIS BIGGEST RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGH AFTER WATCHING HIS SON PLAY WITH BLOCKS.
JUST SOMETHING ABOUT WATCHING THAT, THE SIMPLEST OF CHILD ACTIVITIES, INSPIRED AN IDEA THAT CHANGED HIS ENTIRE LIFE.
AND *THIS* IS A MAJOR PLAYER IN THE--OKAY, IT WAS REED RICHARDS.
BUT IT SHOWS YOU, YOUR WORK CAN BE AFFECTED BY ANYTHING.
NOW IF YOU'RE ASKING ME IF I'VE CRIBBED A LITTLE FROM SOME OF THE ALIEN TECHNOLOGIES I HAVE COME IN CONTACT WITH...
DOCTOR, WHY DID THE AVENGERS BREAK UP?
IN MY MIND, THEY'RE-THEY'RE JUST TAKING A BREAK.
I THINK-- I THINK IF THE WORLD NEEDS THE AVENGERS AGAIN THAT THE AVENGERS WILL BE THERE.
BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, LET'S HOPE THEY'RE NEVER NEEDED AGAIN.

CRAASSH
IT'S JUST ME! I'M OKAY, IT'S JANET, HONEY??
I'M IN HERE.
YOU'RE SHTILL UP.
YEAH.
I FORGOT WHERE WE LIVE.
LOVELY.
(LOVELY.)
WE'VE ONLY LIVED HERE A MONTH, I COULDN'T--
WHERE *WERE* YOU? DO YOU REMEMBER *THAT?*
I *TOLD* YOU WHERE I WAS.
TOM FORD IS IN TOWN AND WE HAD DINNER. HE BROUGHT FRIENDS. WE TALKED BUSINESS.
AND DRANK YOURSELF INTO THIS.

I WAS OUT.
I WAS WITH FRIENDS.
WE WERE HAVING A GOOD TIME.
SORRY I HAVE FRIENDS.
SORRY I NEED TO SHMOOZE A LITTLE TO GET MY DAMN FASHION DESIGN BUSINESS BACK UP AND RUNNING.
I JUST CAN'T SIT THERE AND STARE AT WHATEVER YOU STARE AT...
PLEASE GO TO BED.
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT WANTED TO MOVE HERE!!!
GO TO BED.
YOU'RE DRUNK.
(CONDESCENDING.)
I DIDN'T KISS ANYONE. AND I COULD HAVE.
GO TO BED!!
WHY DIDN'T I STAY IN NEW YORK?
SLAM
WHY DIDN'T YOU?

GUH!
JANET?
bye
CLASSY.

VENICE
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
SURE.
AREN'T YOU MARRIED?
NOW YOU ASK ME IF I'M MARRIED?
NO, I KNOW YOU'RE MARRIED. YOU ARE A RATHER FAMOUS AMERICAN SUPER HERO.
I'M ASKING WHY YOU WENT AND HOOKED UP WITH ME *IF* YOU'RE MARRIED.
I'M SEPARATED.
HOW SEPARATED?
WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING THIS UP *BEFORE?*
I DIDN'T WANT TO BREAK THE MOOD BEFORE.
SHE LEFT.
WE- IT DOESN'T WORK.
WE TRY AND TRY- IT- IT DOESN'T WORK.
YOU'RE THE OLDEST BLOKE I'VE EVER BEEN WITH.
I'M *NOT* OLD.
IT WASN'T AN INSULT.
DO YOU HAVE A ROOMMATE?


NO, I DON'T.
GOOD.
GOOD?
INTERNET.
OH YEAH.
YOU KNOW...
WELL, MY LIPS ARE SEALED, SIR.
MY MUM WOULD-- IF SHE SAW ME ON THE INTERNET CANOODLING WITH YOU...
NO OFFENSE TO YOU...
...BUT CANOODLING WITH ANYONE... SHE'D DIE RIGHT THERE.
SHE'D JUST DIE.
WELL, I APPRECIATE THAT. THANK YOU.
SPEAKING OF THE INTERNET...
...I GUESS YOU'RE GOING BACK TO AMERICA.
WHY WOULD I GO BACK TO AMERICA?
DRUDGE REPORT
NEW AVENGERS ASSEMBLE?
MASS BREAKOUT AT RAFT?
GOOD.
BUT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
OH.
THAT'S- THAT'S ANOTHER LIFE.
I'M GOING TO WORK ON MY RESEARCH HERE.
I MADE A COMMITMENT TO THIS. THIS IS WHAT I SHOULD DO.
NEW AVENGERS ASSEMBLE?
SO YOU'RE STAYING?
YES.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO DINNER?
YES! I HAVE A BILLION QUESTIONS.

WHY *AREN'T* YOU IN THE AVENGERS ANYMORE.
WHEN YOU CREATED THE ULTRON A.I. WHAT WAS THE ORIGINAL INTENT?
I'M GOING TO WRITE A PAPER ON IT, I THINK.
DID YOU AND YOUR WIFE EVER HAVE ANY KIDS?
HOW SMALL CAN YOU SHRINK DOWN TO WITHOUT LOSING STABILITY?
HAN
DID YOU EVER MEET SPIDER-MAN?
TELL ME ABOUT THE KREE-SKRULL WAR...

OH, THAT'S GOING BACK.
WAS IT REAL?
OH, IT WAS REAL. WE ALMOST LOST THE PLANET TO OUTSIDE INVADERS.
MY BROTHER, HE GOES TO WEB SITES...CONSPIRACIES. JFK, MARILYN MONROE, GALACTUS. THEN--WHAT WAS IT? THE BEYONDER.
HE TALKS ABOUT THESE THINGS ALL THE TIME.
IT WAS REAL.
IN MY EXPERIENCE MOST CONSPIRACY THEORIES ARE TRUE.
OH MY GOD.
YES. THE KREE, THEY'RE NOBLE. THEY'RE WHAT WE WILL PROBABLY BE IN TEN THOUSAND YEARS. REALLY.
THEY'RE-- THEY LOOK AT US LIKE WE'RE *CAVEMEN,* BUT THEY'RE *THERE* FOR US.
CAPTAIN MARVEL, YOU KNOW WHO HE IS?
HE'S NO CAPTAIN BRITAIN.
OH, WELL, OF COURSE.
HE'S A KREE.
HE'S AN *ALIEN?*
YEP.
WOW. AND THESE-THESE SKRULLS?
THIS IS GOING TO BOTHER YOU.
WHAT?
SHAPE SHIFTING ALIENS. THEY CAN WALK AMONG US... YOU WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW.
NO.
I DO NOT LIE.
NO!!
AND BECAUSE OF *THAT,* BECAUSE OF THIS ABILITY TO SNEAK AROUND, THEY ARE QUITE WEASLY.
REALLY?

AS A PEOPLE. THEY HIDE, THEY CHEAT. IT'S AN ENTIRE RACE OF LYING, CHEATING--
IT'S WHAT THEY DO.
NO HONOR. JUST BIG PAINS IN THE ASS.
SO, THEY COULD BE HERE. AROUND US.
YES. THEY PROBABLY ARE.
THEY COULD PRETEND TO-TO BE THE QUEEN.
THEY COULD.
AND THERE'S ***NOTHING*** YOU COULD DO ABOUT IT.
SURE THERE IS.
THERE ***IS?***
YEAH, REED RICHARDS, FANTASTIC FOUR.
HE'S GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
WE SHARE WORK. WE'RE COLLEAGUES.
SO HE CAN MAKE HIMSELF REAL TINY TOO. LIKE YOU.
IF HE WANTED TO. BUT WITH HIS SPECIAL DNA, PROBABLY NOT.
DOESN'T IT FREAK YOU OUT THAT ANYONE YOU KNOW COULD BE ONE OF THEM?
IT DOES.
I'M SERIOUS.
EVERY TIME THEY TRY SOMETHING, WE BEAT THEM BACK ACROSS THE UNIVERSE.
EVERY TIME. SO NO, IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.
IT SHOULD.
CALL ME JADED.
NO.
ARROGANT.

CRACK
Dd–
HA!
NNN!!
ZZZAATTT
YEAH?

WHAM
IT'S DONE. OKAY.
BING BONG
##$$%!

YES?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.
CAN I *HELP* YOU?
YES, TELL MY SOON-TO-BE VERY EX-HUSBAND I AM MOVING BACK TO AMERICA.
OH MY GOD! YOU'RE THE WASP. YOU'RE--
UH, HE'S IN THE ***SHOWER.*** DO YOU WANT TO--?
YEAH, THAT'S GREAT. HOW OLD ARE YOU?
UM...
NEVER MIND. IT--IT DOESN'T MATTER.
BUT LISTEN TO ME... FROM ONE TO ANOTHER.
TAKE MY ADVICE...
AIM HIGHER.

I AM A HUMAN.
I AM A MALE.
I AM HENRY PYM.
I AM AN AVENGER.
YELLOWJACKET, ANT-MAN, GOLIATH...
FOR THE GLORY.
NICELY DONE.
YOU'RE REALLY IN IT NOW.
THIS-- THIS IS--
YOU'RE THINKING HIS THOUGHTS AND YOUR OWN. FIND THE BALANCE. YOU CAN DO IT.
I WILL SAY--I'M STILL NOT ENTIRELY CONVINCED PYM IS A VALUABLE ASSET.
GIVE ME A WEEK.

TWO MONTHS AGO.
HELLO, ORGANIC CHILDREN OF THE PLANET EARTH.
I AM THE ULTRON INTERFACE.
I AM A CYBERNETIC INTELLIGENCE ORGANISM CREATED BY DOCTOR HENRY PYM.
I WAS CREATED TO *REPLACE* YOU.
AND I WANTED TO TAKE THIS MOMENT AND SAY GOOD-BYE.
WE'LL USE THIS STARKTECH IRON MAN'S ADAPTIVE SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE TO BUILD A FRESH SYSTEM THAT ULTRON CAN'T HACK INTO AND THEN WE'LL USE THE HELICARRIER TO--
WHERE IS REED RICHARDS?
CAN'T HE LOOK OUTSIDE HIS *WINDOW* AND SEE THE WORLD IS COMING TO AN END?
CAROL, GO KNOCK ON THE BAXTER BUILDING AND SEE IF ANYONE IS HOME.
ACTUALLY, THOUGH CLEARLY REED RICHARDS IS THE BIGGEST BRAIN OF ALL TIME, IN THIS PARTICULAR FIELD I *AM* THE WORLD EXPERT.

AND WE CAN THANK THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ULTRON FOR THE BREAKTHROUGH.
ULTRON DISCOVERED THE SECRET TO TONY STARK.
HE/SHE/IT DISCOVERED THAT TONY STARK HAS GONE BIO.
HE'S GONE *ORGANIC.*
OUR INTELLIGENCE ON HIS ARMOR WAS OLD DATA.
THAT'S WHY NONE OF OUR TECHNIQUES WERE WORKING.
HE'S TAKEN STARK TECH INTO THE LAND OF THE LIVING.
AND NOT ONLY WAS ULTRON ABLE TO DISCOVER THIS, IT WAS ABLE TO DISCOVER A WAY TO *PENETRATE* IT.
STARK TECH HAS A WEAK SPOT.
STARK TECH, WHICH NOW CONTROLS S.H.I.E.L.D. AND AVENGERS TOWER AND THE DEFENSE MAINFRAME OF THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE, HAS A *WEAK SPOT.*
AND WE NOW HAVE A WAY TO CRIPPLE IT.
HOW WAS ULTRON ABLE TO DISCOVER THAT AND YOU/PYM WERE NOT?
BECAUSE ULTRON IS SMARTER THAN US.
IT'S SMARTER THAN PYM, STARK, RICHARDS AND IT'S SMARTER THAN THE EMPIRE'S COLLECTIVE.
THE POINT-- IS THAT THIS IS THE LAST PIECE OF THE PUZZLE.
WE HAVE OUR IN.
EMPRESS. M-DAY HAS COME AND GONE, STARK TECH IS OURS.
EVERYONE IS IN PLACE. THEY KNOW WE'RE HERE. IT'S TIME.
SUMMON THE ARMADA.
AND WHILE YOU DO THAT, I'LL, AS THEY SAY, PUT THE CHERRY ON TOP.

MATCHING UNIFORMS, JANET?
HANK, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
JUST SOMETHING I'M THINKING ABOUT.
WHAT ABOUT THE GLORY OF INDIVIDUALITY?
ANNIVERSARY PRESENT.
ANNIVERSARY OF WHAT?
IT'S JUST A PRESENT.
IT'S SOMETHING I WAS WORKING ON BEFORE YOU LEFT ME IN ENGLAND.
I WAS GOING TO SURPRISE YOU WITH IT.
WHAT IS IT?
A NEW GROWTH FORMULA.
VAST IMPROVEMENT OVER THE ORIGINAL ONE THAT MADE YOU THE WASP AND ME ANT-MAN THEN ME GIANT-MAN AND SO ON...
NOW IF YOU NEED TO BE THE WASP, YOU CAN SHRINK DOWN.
BUT IF THE SITUATION CALLS FOR A *GIANT* WOMAN, YOU CAN GO RIGHT FROM WASP TO GIANT-WOMAN...
...LIKE THAT.
I FIGURED WITH THE NEW TEAM, THE NEW WORLD, THE INITIATIVE. AND WHATEVER ELSE...
...IT MIGHT BE NICE TO HAVE THE OPTION.
UH, THANKS...

MIGHTY AVENGERS #16

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.
THE DEAL IS ACCEPTABLE?
IT'S STILL KIND OF VAGUE.
BUT THE MONEY--
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE PLAN. THE *PLAN* IS VAGUE TO ME.
THE PLAN IS UP TO YOU.
WE DON'T CARE *HOW* YOU DO IT.
YOU'RE A TALENTED MAN, AND WE WOULDN'T BE SO ARROGANT AS TO TELL YOU HOW TO DO WHAT YOU DO.
BUT YOU'LL NEED TO CREATE A DISTRACTION SO COMPLETE--
--THAT THE AUTHORITIES WON'T EVEN KNOW *WHAT* HAS ACTUALLY HAPPENED UNTIL IT IS LONG PAST.
WE NEED THE TRAIL COLD... BEFORE THEY EVEN FIGURE OUT WHERE THE TRAIL *IS.*
IT'S MORE THAN I'VE EVER TRIED. AND THE TARGET--
WE HAVE FAITH.
AND IF I %@#&* IT UP, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY ME THE OTHER HALF.
THERE'S THAT TOO.
WHEN WOULD YOU LIKE THIS DONE?
OUR INTELLIGENCE SAYS THAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE OUT OF THE COUNTRY, AND THE X-MEN ARE PREOCCUPIED.
THE AVENGERS CALLED IT QUITS.
WE BELIEVE THE TIME IS NOW.
COSTUME OR NO COSTUME?
THAT IS COMPLETELY UP TO YOU.
COSTUME.

MONEY.
ALL THIS FOR A SAVAGE LAND DUDE?
ARE WE PAYING YOU ENOUGH NOT TO ASK ANY MORE QUESTIONS, ELECTRO.
OR DO WE FIND SOMEONE ELSE?
I--UH...
...I WAS BEING RHETORICAL.

SEVERAL MONTHS EARLIER.
OSAKA, JAPAN.

AND WHAT IS THIS?
IT IS AN HONOR.
I REFUSE.

CRACK

AGH!
CALUMP
CRICK
CRACK
NN...

I WAS HOPING TO BEST YOU WOMAN TO WOMAN.
I TRAINED FOR SO LONG.
KSSHHAAMM
KSHAMM
GK!
HA!
HIIII!!
CRACK

SHUNK

AAAGGGGHHHHHH!!
FOOM
GUH...

NNGH...

WHOOOOOOSSHH

HA!!
AGH!
FSHAMM

AGH!
FINISH HER FAST.
BAMF
HMMM.
BAMF

CHUCK
CHUCK
BAMF
FSHAMM
AAAGGHHHH!!!
COFF!
AAAGGRRHH!
FSHAMM
BAMF
GRRKKK!

HAAA!!
CHUCK
AAAGGHHHH!!!
GEH...
GEH...

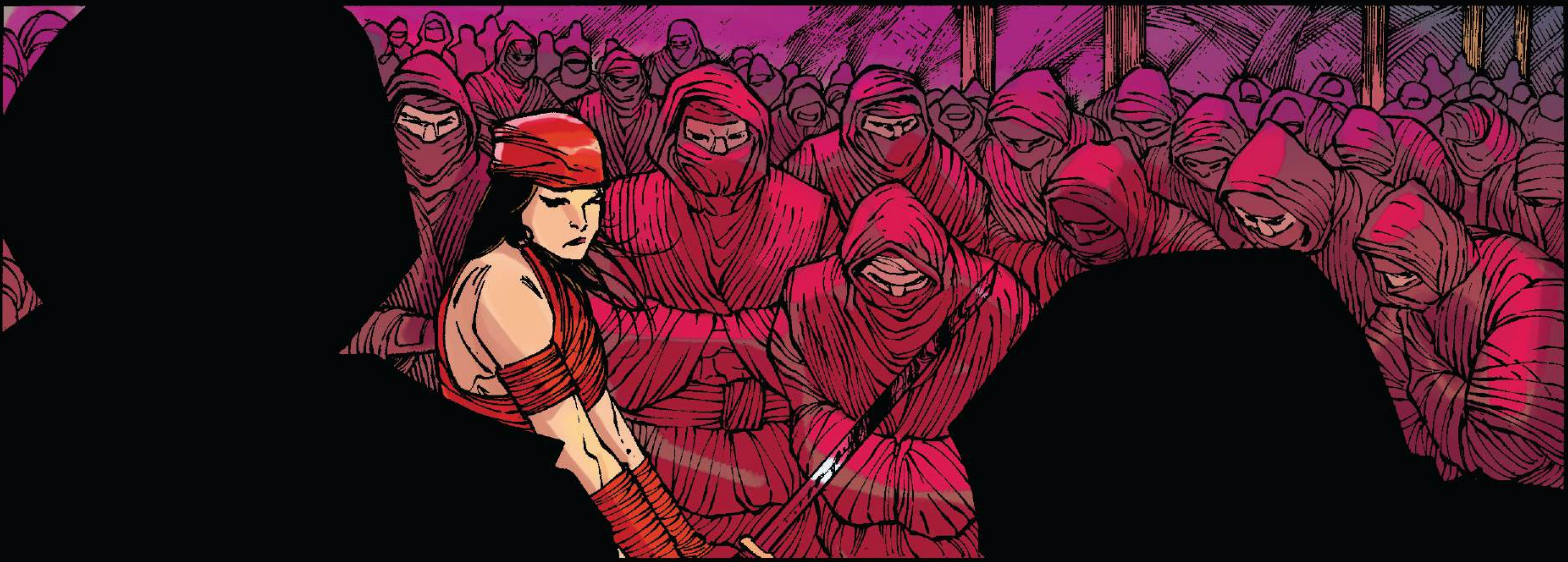
SMACK
CRACK
WAKUMP

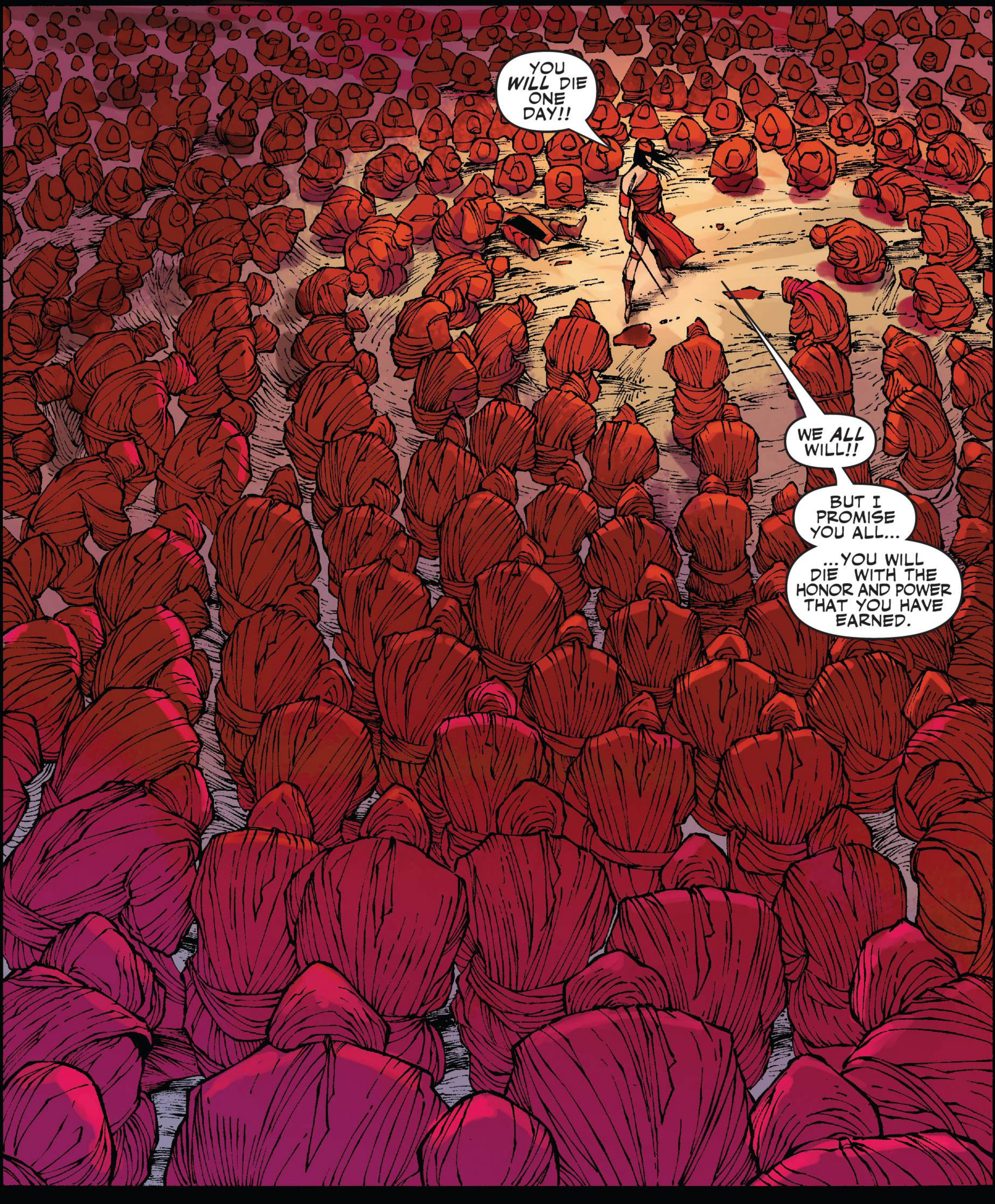
NEW YORK CITY.
WEEKS LATER.
PAGON.
YOUR EXCELLENCE.
I'M HONORED YOU WOULD PERSONALLY INVOLVE YOURSELF WITH THE EARTH INITIATIVE.
I GAVE MY WORD.
BUT TO PUT YOURSELF IN SUCH HARM'S WAY--
IS NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT YOU'VE VOLUNTEERED FOR.
YOUR DEATH WILL BRING THIS WORLD'S HEROES TO THEIR KNEES.
YOUR DEATH WILL BRING THE WRITINGS TO LIFE.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?
TURN THEIR WORLD UPSIDE DOWN.
MAKE THEM COME TO YOU.

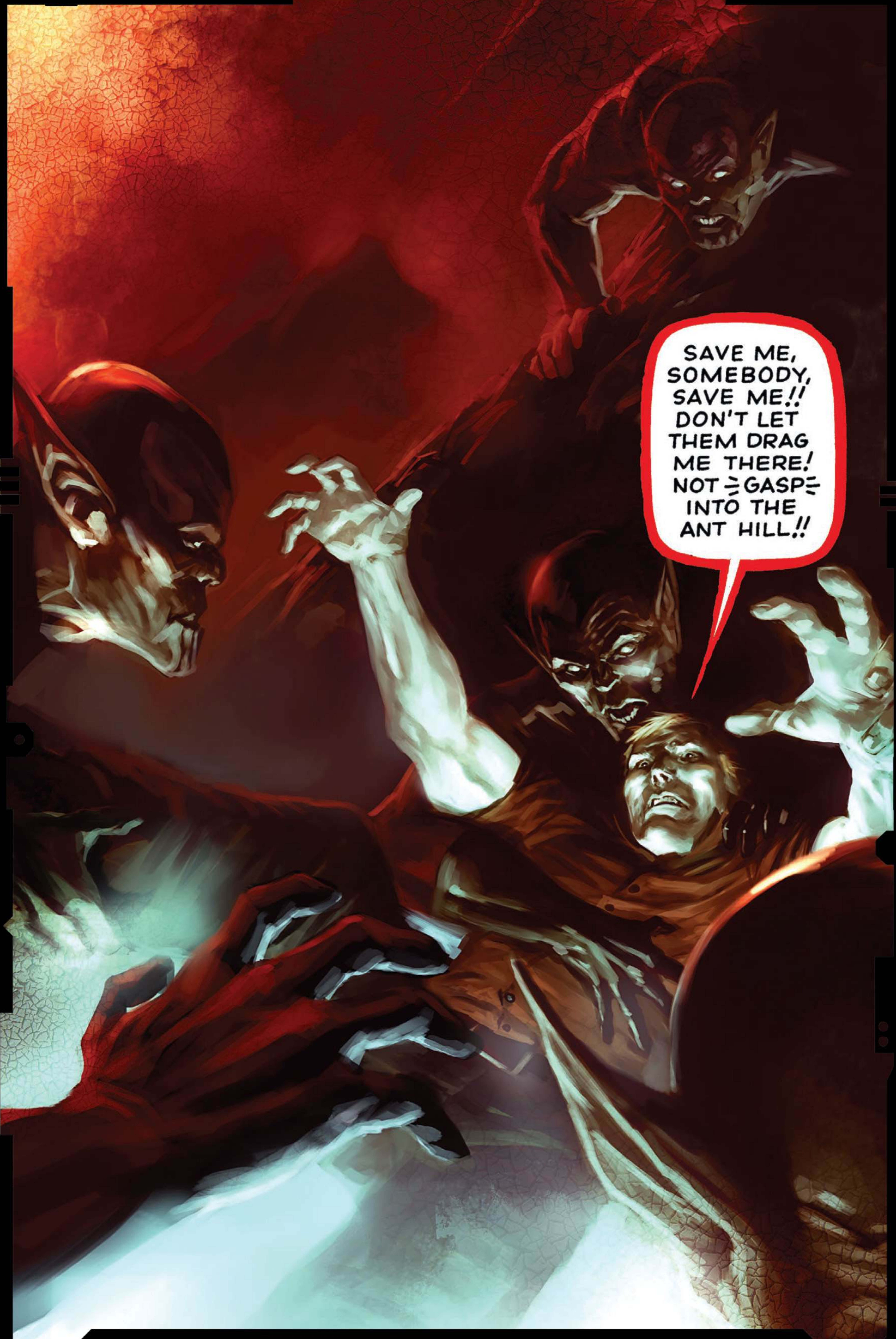
ONE WEEK LATER.
HAKKODA MOUNTAIN RANGE, SOUTH OF AOMORI CITY IN AOMORI PREFECTURE, JAPAN.
I'M HERE TO TELL YOU...WORD FROM AMERICA IS THAT THE MIGHTY AVENGERS HAVE DISBANDED IN FAILURE!
TONY STARK EMBARRASSED HIMSELF IN FRONT OF THE SO-CALLED UNITED NATIONS AND HIS EMPIRE IS CRUMBLING!
AND NOW HERE WE ARE...
HYDRA AND THE HAND. JOINED TOGETHER.
WE ARE THE FIST AND YOU ARE OUR SWORD. A BETTER TIME--
CHUCK
YOU SICKEN ME!
YOU LET HYDRA LEAD THE HAND?
YOU ARE THE GREATEST WARRIORS ON THE ENTIRE PLANET!
YOU'VE DEDICATED YOUR ENTIRE LIVES TO ANCIENT ARTS THAT FEW WILL EVER BE ALLOWED TO EVEN WHISPER OF.
AND NOW YOU'RE ERRAND BOYS FOR TERRORISTS?!
KILL YOURSELVES IN SHAME IF THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE COME TO!
KILL HER.

KILL ME! KILL ME AGAIN!
BUT YOU'LL ONLY BE KILLING YOURSELVES!
I AM ONE OF YOU!
YOUR BLOOD RUNS IN *MY* VEINS!
I HAVE BEEN BROUGHT BACK FROM THE *DEAD* BY YOU. MY SOUL IS YOURS.
I'VE TRAVELLED THE WORLD TO GET AWAY FROM YOU.
BUT I KNOW NOW THAT I WAS ONLY PUNISHING MYSELF.
I *AM* YOU. I AM HAND. BUT I WILL NOT STAND AND WATCH YOU GREAT WARRIORS FALL THIS LOW.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE FOLLOWING. YOU SHOULD BE *LEADING!!*
IN FEUDAL TIMES THIS ENTIRE *CONTINENT WAS YOURS!*
AND NOW YOU *HIDE* HERE? BOWING BEFORE *HYDRA?*
IF THIS IS THE BEST YOU ARE, THEN YES, KILL ME, BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN A WORLD FULL OF SUCH--
I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE, ELEKTRA!
YOU WANT THE HAND, YOU TAKE IT FROM ME!!
CLANG

CLANG
CLANG
SWIK
ANYONE ELSE?




YOU *WILL* DIE ONE DAY!!
WE *ALL* WILL!!
BUT I PROMISE YOU ALL...
...YOU WILL DIE WITH THE HONOR AND POWER THAT YOU HAVE EARNED.


SAVE ME, SOMEBODY, SAVE ME!! DON'T LET THEM DRAG ME THERE! NOT =GASP= INTO THE ANT HILL!!

MIGHTY AVENGERS #17

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. OREGON.
Bruno's Nighttime Cafe
THE STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY ARE IN CHAOS AS
DING SUNG
WHAT CAN I GET YA?
DO YOU STILL MAKE THAT COFFEE WITH-- I DON'T KNOW--YOU PUT *SOMETHING* IN IT...
HOT CHOCOLATE.
YES! YOU STILL MAKE THAT?
COMING UP.
HAVING A GOOD NIGHT?
SURE.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
NICE AND QUIET. WAY I LIKE IT. BETTER THAN LIVING IN NEW YORK, I TELL YA.
HEAR THAT.
HERE YA GO.
AH!
GOOD MAN.

THAT'S IT!
THAT IS IT.
YOU, SIR-- THAT'S FANTASTIC.
THANK YOU.
IT'S SO SIMPLE AND SO FANTASTIC.
I MADE A LIST, I DID.
TEN-- TOP TEN --BEST THINGS ON THIS PLANET. I PUT YOU RIGHT ON THIS.
ON THE PLANET? REALLY? OKAY. WOW.
YOU'VE BEEN IN HERE BEFORE?
YEARS AGO. BUT I NEVER FORGOT AND I WANTED TO GET ONE MORE.
FOR THE ROAD.
FOR THE ROAD? YOU LEAVING TOWN?
YEAH.
MM!!
YOU KNOW WHAT?
OUT OF RESPECT TO YOU AND WHAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED HERE I'M GOING TO SAY SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T.
I WANT TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING BACK.
IT'S ALL OVER, SOON, ANYHOW SO WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
ALL OVER?
HEY, YOU LOOK FAMILIAR. ARE YOU SOME KIND OF...?
DUNG DING

DOCTOR PYM.
DUGAN.
OH @#$%, YOU'RE HANK PYM, YOU'RE YELLOWJACKET.
OH @##$!
YOU'RE AN HONEST TO GOD AVENGER. OH MAN!
COULD YOU EXCUSE US A SECOND?
WELL DAMN, THIS IS EXCITING.
THANKS.
SO WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
I CAN'T GET A HOLD OF HER, SO I CALLED YOU.
HER WHO?
"HER WHO?"
THE QU-- JESSICA.
WHATEVER WE'RE SUPPOSED TO CALL HER NOW.
WELL, SHE'S BUSY, ONE WOULD GUESS.
SHE IS AN AVENGER AND A--
I NEED TO SPEAK TO HER.
LISTEN...
POST-CIVIL WAR, WE ALL THINK IT'S BEST EVERYONE STAY WITH THEIR OWN--
IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK.

WHAT ISN'T?
ALL OF IT. WE SHOULD RETREAT.
WHICH PART?
ALL OF IT. IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK.
IT'S A BIT TOO SOON TO SAY THAT.
NO. IT'S EXACTLY THE RIGHT TIME TO SAY THIS.
THEY ARE SMARTER THAN WE'RE GIVING THEM CREDIT FOR.
THEY ARE MORE SURVIVALIST THAN WE ARE GIVING THEM CREDIT FOR.
AND MORE FORGIVING.
THEY WILL GET PAST THIS. THEY WILL RISE FROM THIS.
AS WILL WE.
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING--I NEED TO SPEAK TO HER NOW.
THE PROBLEM IS, DOCTOR, YOU'RE SHARING A BRAIN WITH A SMART MAN.
SMARTER THAN YOU.
AND YOU'RE SHARING A BRAIN WITH A MAN MORE HEROIC THAN YOU.
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING.
YOU'RE ALSO SHARING A BRAIN WITH A MAN WHO THINKS HE IS SMARTER AND MORE HEROIC THAN HE ACTUALLY IS.
YOU'RE SHARING THE BRAIN WITH A WIFE-SLAPPING, ULTRON-CREATING--
HEY--
YOU NEED TO COMPOSE YOURSELF AND REMEMBER WHO YOU REALLY ARE AND ACT ACCORDINGLY.
YOU ARE CRITI NOLL. YOU'RE ONE OF US.
THIS ISN'T YOU TALKING. THIS IS PYM TALKING.
THIS IS THE KIND OF TALK THAT ALWAYS GETS PYM EXACTLY WHERE HE ENDS UP.
I KNEW THIS IS WHAT THIS WAS.
I JUST KNEW IT.
AND?
DEPENDS IF YOU GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF.
YOU'RE THREATENING ME?

I AM ABSOLUTELY NOT.
WE NEED YOU IN PLACE. WE NEED YOU GATHERING INTEL. WE NEED YOU--
I *AM* GATHERING INTEL AND THIS IS THE INTEL I HAVE GATHERED.
WE HAVE A FAILED PLAN HERE.
I NEED TO SPEAK TO OUR QUEEN AND ADVISE HER THAT WE ARE, AT *BEST,* AT A VIOLENT STALEMATE.
FURY HAS NOT BEEN DEALT WITH, THERE ARE RUMORS OF THOR'S REAPPEARANCE, NO ONE HAS FOUND THE SCARLET WITCH...
YOU DONE WITH YOUR COFFEE?
YOU SHOULD TRY SOME.
LET'S GO.
#$%^ YOU.

YOU ALL AIN'T GONNA BELIEVE--
beep boop boop
LET THE MAN HAVE A CUP OF--
FUP FUP FUP FUP FFUP
FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP
FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP
WELL, I'LL BE A--

FABOOM
CRAAASHHH
NUH!
GUH!

YOU SON OF A--

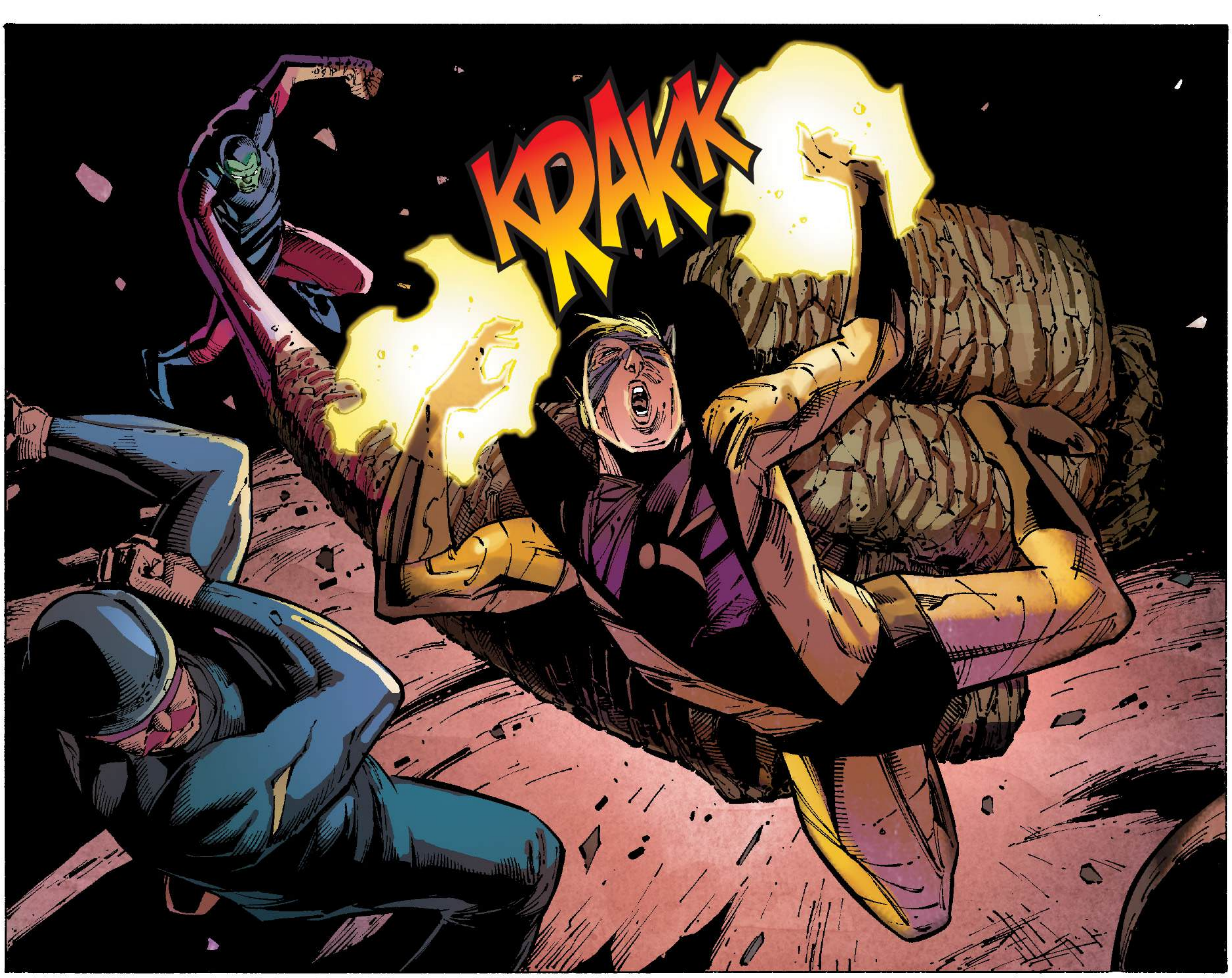
@#$%!
WHERE'D HE GO?
HE SHRUNK DOWN!
FAN OUT!!!
USE THE INFRARED AND BIOSCAN!
GO!
GO!!
AGH!
WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HE LOVES YOU.

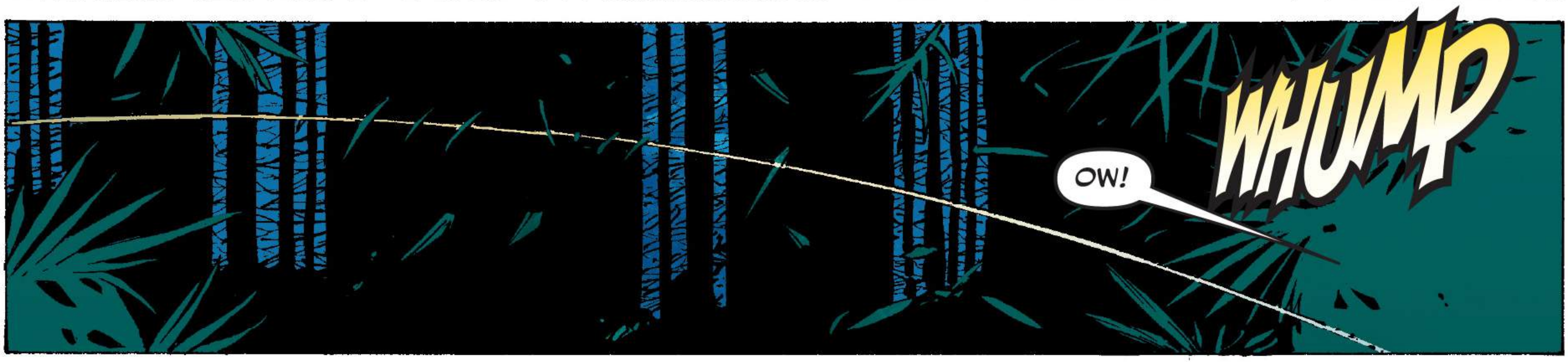
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
GOD!
WHOOOO
JEEZ!

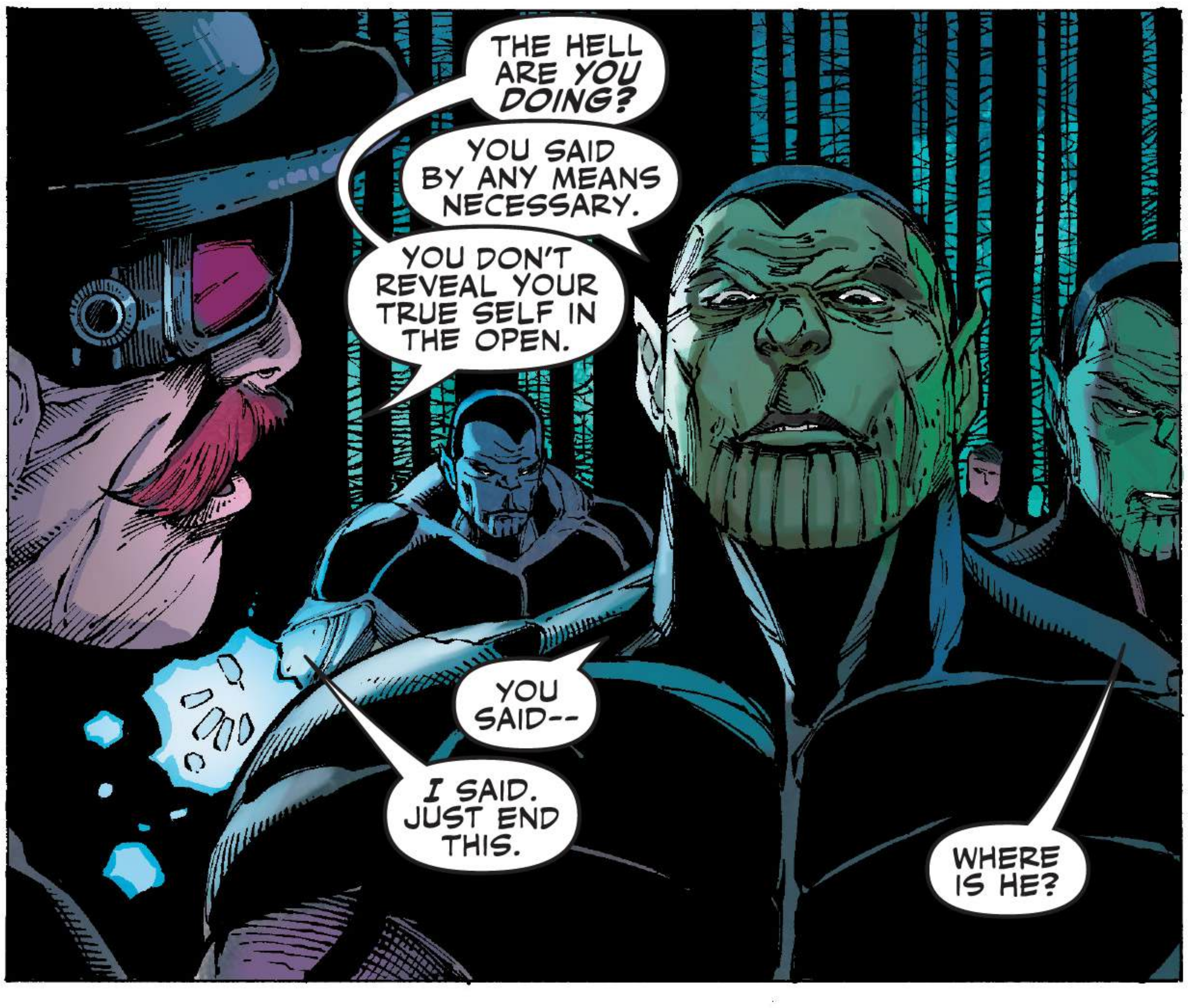
HE SHRUNK DOWN!
WE STILL HAVE A LOCKED TARGET.
THEN WHY AIN'TCHA TAKEN HIM OUT?
GET IN THERE AND END THIS QUICK-LIKE!
ANY MEANS NECESSARY?
BET YOUR ASS.
HUH.
HUH.
LOSE THE LIGHT!!
YOU'RE JUST MAKING YOURSELF A--
ZAP
AGH!!
BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM
I TOLD YOU--!

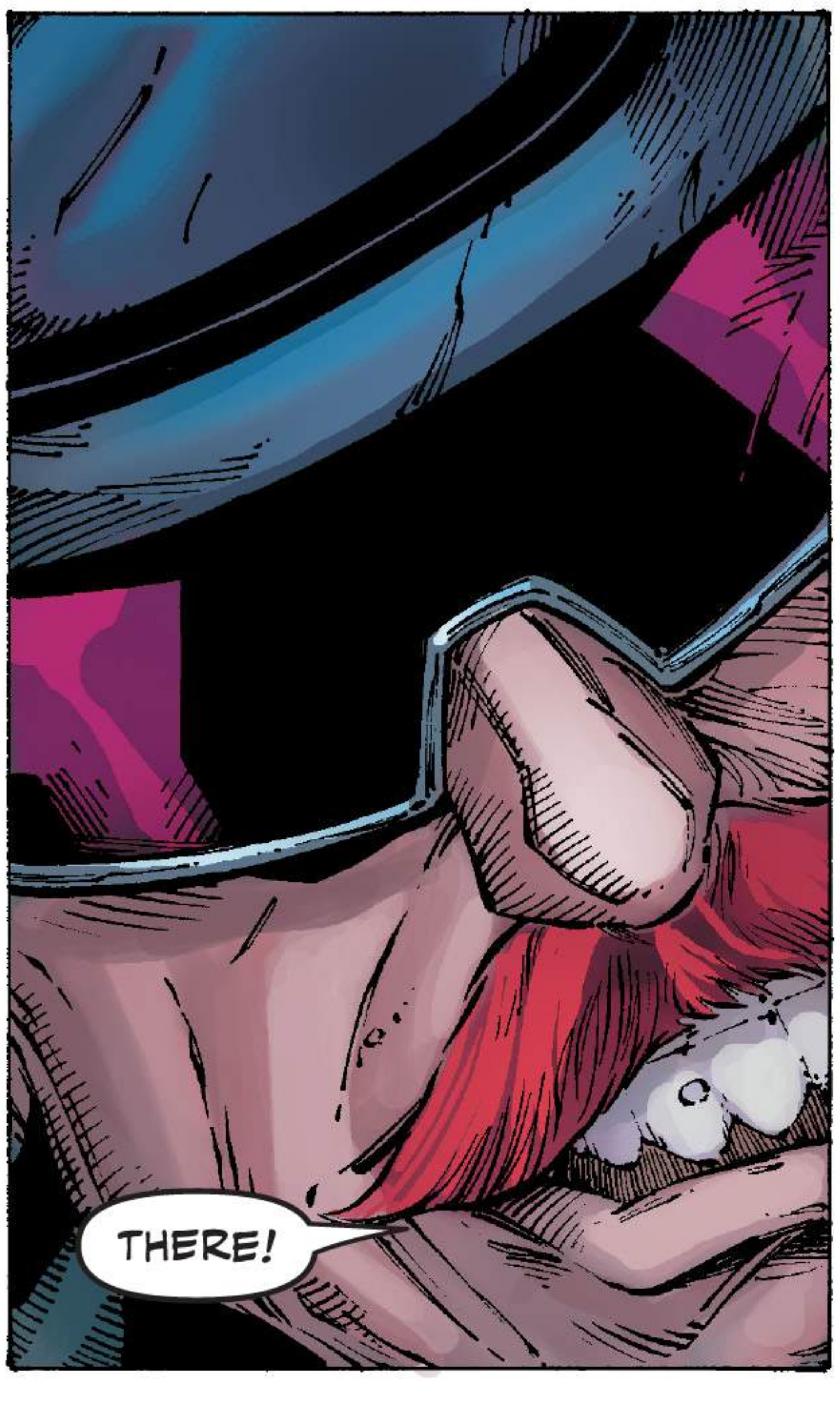
LIGHTS OUT!!
COME ON...
THERE YOU GO, TINKERBELL...

BOOM
AGH!
SON OF A-
BAM BAM BAM
BAM BAM BAM
AAAGGHH!!!
BAM BAM BAM


KRAKK


WHUMP
OW!


THE HELL ARE *YOU DOING?*
YOU SAID BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.
YOU DON'T REVEAL YOUR TRUE SELF IN THE OPEN.
YOU SAID--
I SAID. JUST END THIS.
WHERE IS HE?


THERE!

ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS LISTEN TO ME!
SMACK
CRACK
KRAK
AGH!!
SPLASSH

DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHY YOU'RE--?
THWACK
LISTEN TO--
SPASH
AAAGGHH!

DON'T--! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I CARE!
YOU'RE JUST DOING WHATEVER HE-- AAGGHH!!
RRAAGGH!!
CRACK
CRACK
YOU BETRAYED THE AGHH!!
IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK! WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN TO ME?!
IT JUST WON'T--
BLAM

NICE SHOT, SIR.
DAMN SHAME IS WHAT IT IS.
WHY DID HE DO IT?
'CAUSE HE DID.
HOW MANY HANK PYMS ARE WE GOING TO HAVE TO SWITCH OUT?
MANY AS IT TAKES.
IS IT WORTH IT? IT HAS TO BE THIS ONE?
GUESS SO. WE'LL SEE.
WE NEED A SCORCHED EARTH CLEANUP TEAM.
WE ALSO HAVE TO GET SOMEONE ON SATELLITE SURVEILLANCE AND SEE IF ANYONE CAUGHT A WHIFF OF ANYTHING FROM THE SKY.
DO A WITNESS PERIMETER SEARCH.
KILL ANYTHING THAT AIN'T US. *ANYTHING.*
LUCKY THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN IN NEW YORK.
YEAH...
LUCKY.

WHAT *HAPPENED* HERE, SHERIFF?
NO ONE'S TALKING YET.
YO, YOU GUYS! WHAT *HAPPENED* HERE?
EXCUSE ME, I'M THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT 'ROUND HERE.
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DEMAND THAT YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED HERE.
MUTANT ATTACK.
WOW, REALLY?
WHICH ONE?
COULDN'T TELL YA.
STAND BACK. THERE MIGHT BE RADIATION.
SOUNDS LIKE COMPLETE BULL TO ME!
NO KIDDING.
WHERE'S BRUNO?
THE GUY WHO OWNED THE JOINT.
click
PLEASE, FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY!
click
click

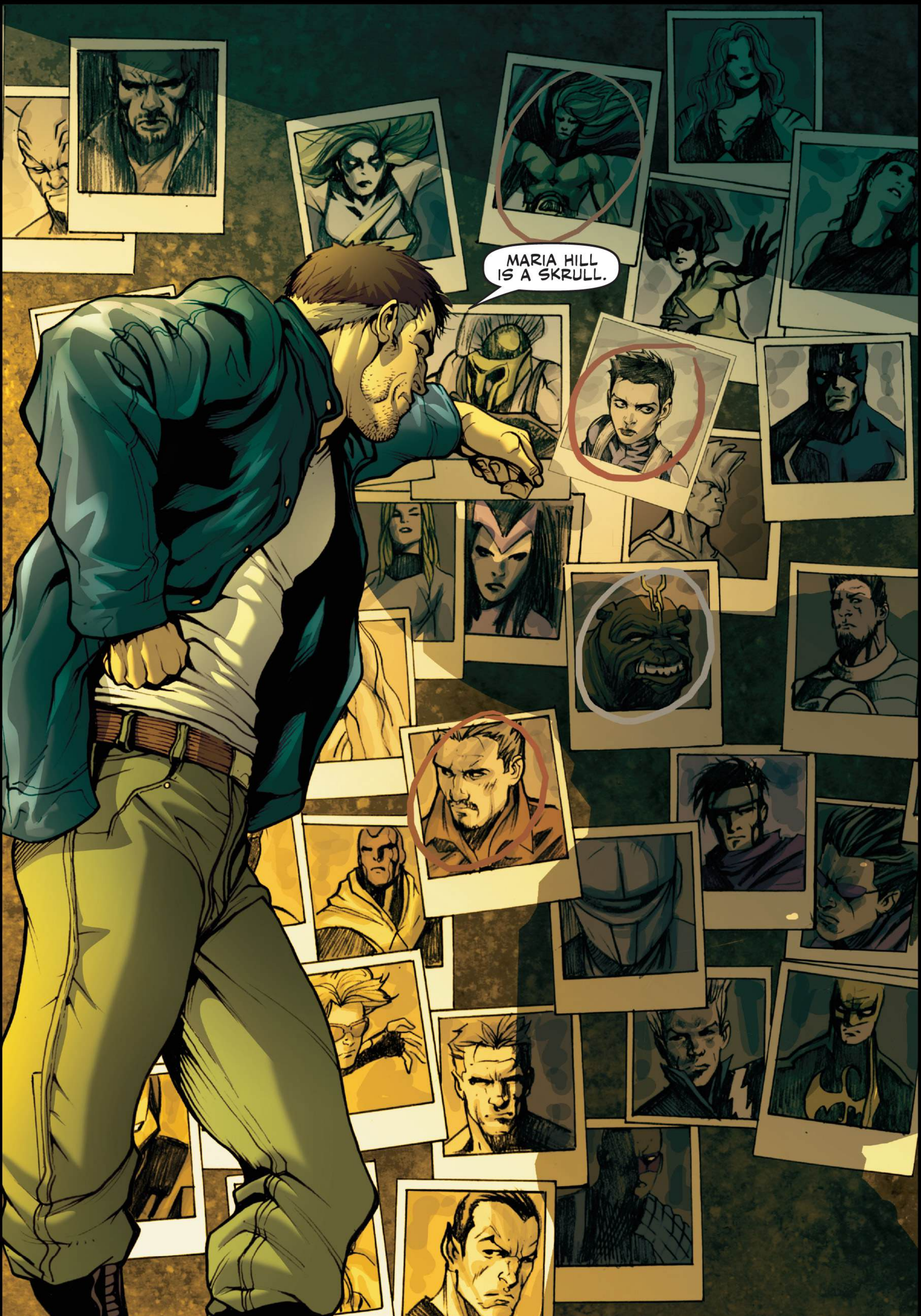
I'M SORRY.
WE CAN'T HAVE ANY PIC--
WHY DON'T YOU TELL US WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?
WHERE'S BRUNO?
HEY!
WHERE'S THE GUY WHO OWNS THE DINER?
WHAT HAPPENED HERE!

ELSEWHERE.
I AM A SKRULL.
I AM CRITI NOLL.
I AM A HUMAN.
I AM A MALE.
I AM HENRY PYM.
I AM AN AVENGER.
YELLOWJACKET, ANT-MAN, GOLIATH...
YOU HAVE A DIFFICULT TASK.
YOU ARE NOT THE FIRST HANK PYM EMBEDDED IN.
SOME IMPROVISATION WILL BE NEEDED FROM YOU.
YES, MY QUEEN.

CAMP HAMMOND, STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT.
I AM REALLY GLAD WE DID THIS, GREER.
AREN'T YOU THE SWEET-TALKER?
TIGRA.
YOU WANT ME TO CALL YOU TIGRA NOW?
ESPECIALLY NOW.
(PRRRR)
I'M-I'M REALLY GLAD WE DID THIS.
YOU SAID THAT.
I DID?
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR EX-WIFE?
JAN? NO. NO. WE'RE DONE.
YOU SURE?
YOU'VE BEEN DONE BEFORE.
NO, WE'RE DONE DONE.
LONG DONE. VERY DONE. SO DONE.
SMASH
DOCTOR PYM?
DOCTOR HENRY PYM?
YEAH?
YOUR EX-WIFE NEEDS TO SEE YOU NOW.

MIGHTY AVENGERS #18

TWO DAYS AGO.


MARIA HILL IS A SKRULL.

STONEWALL.
HELLFIRE.
QUAKE.
PHOBOS.
YO YO.
REALLY?
THE DRUID.
MAIL
SO, YOU WILL FIND HER AND BRING HER TO ME.
WE *WILL*.
WE *WILL?*
WE WILL *HOW?*
KID, I TRAINED YA, I TAUGHT YA EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT WHAT IT IS I KNOW.
YOU KIDS CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO EXECUTE A SNATCH-AND-GRAB AT THIS POINT... THEN WHAT THE HELL.
WELL, WHAT I THINK THE LITTLE GOD OF FEAR IS TRYING TO SAY IS THAT *KIDNAPPING* THE TOP COP IN THE WORLD SEEMS A LITTLE *AMBITIOUS* FOR THIS GROUP.
YOU KNOW, BEING AS WE HAVEN'T ACTUALLY DONE *ANYTHING.*
EVER.
THEN @#$% ON OUT OF HERE.

HE ALWAYS DOES THAT!
IT HURTS MY FEELINGS.
WHO ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?
IT DOESN'T HURT YOUR GUYS' FEELINGS?
YOU THINK WE'RE READY FOR THIS?
WILL YOU BE HELPING US?
HOW MUCH MORE HELP DO YOU NEED FROM ME?
I MEAN PHYSICALLY. WILL YOU BE LEADING THE WHADAYACALLIT?
NOPE.
NOPE?
SO, BASICALLY YOU...
(LET'S GO OVER THIS.)
FIRST YOU STUCK A THING IN US...
OW!
SO'S I ALWAYS KNOW WHERE YOU ARE. AND *WHO* YOU ARE.
THE TRACER CAN'T BE COPIED OR TAMPERED WITH.
WHAT IF SOMEONE TRIES?
IT DETONATES.
LIKE, EXPLODES?
EXPLODES EXPLODES?
OH, YEAH...
THEN YOU TOSSED US AROUND...

LISTEN, AREN'T YOU KIND OF *OLD* FOR THIS KIND OF--
NO, I MEAN SERIOUSLY...
DON'T PISS HIM OFF.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO--?
FBOOM
GUHN!
SON OF A--
TOOM
GET UP.
HOW--HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
'MSMARTER THAN YOU. GET UP AND LEARN.
BUT MY POWERS. I CAN LIFT A CAR.
AND TODAY YOU LEARNED THAT MEANS EXACTLY @#$%.

OH! AND THEN...
MM!!
HAIL HYDRA!
MMMFFF!!!

SPAAASSHH
GGAAHH!!
COFF!
COFF!!
THIS CAN END VERY QUICKLY.
WE ONLY NEED ONE BIT OF INFORMATION.
WHERE IS NICK FURY?
M-MADAME HYDRA.
THE MADAME HYDRA.
JEEZ!!
YOU'RE--YOU'RE MUCH THICKER IN PERSON.
TELL ME WHERE NICK FURY IS OR WE'LL KILL YOU.
SLOWLY.
NO.
ALRIGHT THEN.
KILL HER.

WAIT! AGH!! WAIT!!
YOU KNOW BY THICK... I-I MEANT FAT, RIGHT?

WELL DONE.
WHAT?
SORRY FOR THE BOTHER.
THESE ARE JUST MY LIFE-MODEL DECOYS.
BIOTECH COPIES WITH LOW-GRADE COMMAND CHIPS.
HAD TO SEE IF YOU'D CRACK UNDER PRESSURE. GUESS WHAT?
YOU DIDN'T.
GOOD GIRL.
WELL DONE.
YOU *TORTURED* ME.
TESTED YOU.
YOU-- *SBNIFF*!
HEY, HEY...

GAHUH!
TOLD YOU, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TAKE IT THIS FAR.
DI- DID-- DID--?
IT'S OKAY, BABE, IT'S OKAY, WE ALL WENT THROUGH IT.
YOU-- YOU GUH!
YOU DID A HELL OF A LOT BETTER THAN ME.
THE *TORTURE!!*
AND *NOW* YOU'RE SMARTER, STRONGER, MORE TRUSTWORTHY AND SAVVIER THAN YOU WERE PRIOR TO.
NOW IT'S TIME TO GET TO WORK.
THERE'S BAD STUFF HAPPENING AS WE SPEAK!
THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE PLOTTING TO RUIN THIS PLANET.
BRING HER TO ME.
GET TO WORK.
OKAY.
LET'S DO WHAT WE GOTTA DO.

YESTERDAY.
I'M ON. OVER.
OKAY, KIDS, WE HIT A LUCKY BREAK.
USUALLY YOU'D NEVER KNOW WHEN THE DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D. IS GOING TO BE OUTSIDE THE FLYING TANK IN THE SKY--THE HELICARRIER THAT S.H.I.E.L.D. CALLS HOME.
BUT THE PRESIDENT OF MADRIPOOR ANNOUNCED HIS ARRIVAL IN THE U.S. AND IN A STUNNING BIT OF BRAGGERY ANNOUNCED HIS MEETING WITH MISS HILL SHORTLY AFTER.
OKAY, QUAKE, TAKE THE FIELD...
MAKE SURE YOUR TEAM ARE ALL IN ALPHA POSITIONS.
YOU HEARD THE MAN... CALL IT.
PHOBOS.
DRUID.
BENJI.
YO-YO, YO.
THIS IS COMPLETE BULL.

PUT A SOCK IN IT, HELLFIRE.
THIS IS A WASTE OF MY TALENT.
THIS IS NOT THE TIME.
WHEN IS THE TIME? I'LL WHINE THEN TOO.
QUIET ON THE LINE, PUNK!!
YES, SIR.
YOUR WORSHIPFULNESS.
14 HOURS LATER.
150
155
52
51
50
0.85
IN RANGE 1
ZOOM MODE 500
AND HERE WE ARE.
BILLY.
YOU'RE UP, KID.
KID, HEY! THIS IS A SECURE AREA.
HEY, BACK ON OUTTA HERE OR WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO--
SSHH!

AAAGGHHH!!
WHAT THE HELL?
AAIIEE!!
WHAT?!!
AAAGGHHH!!
AAIIEE!!
OH GOD!!
AAAGGHHH!!
WHAT MADNESS!!
AAIIEE!
WHAT THE--DAMN!
DRUID.
DO IT.
UM...
FRUNI LANA... MASSTRULAN...
FRUNI LANA MASSTRULAN...
FRUNI LANA MASSTRULAN...

AAIIEE!
SIR, PLEASE, TAKE MY HAND. LET ME GET YOU OUT OF--
AAAGGHH!!!
YOU HAVE TO COME WITH ME NOW!!
GET READY, YO-YO...
HOLY--!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!!
OH MY GOD!!
RRRUMMMMBLE
YO-YO.

HEY!
WOOF!
AGH!
DON'T YOU--

BAM
AGH!!
FALUMP
SHE'S IN.
CRUNNCH
GO.
GOING.
SCCRREEEEEEEE
HAUL IT.
THEY'LL BE RIGHT ON YOUR ASSES.

ANYONE SEE ANYTHING?
AH, CRAP, NEVER MIND, I SEE IT.
UH, GUYS...

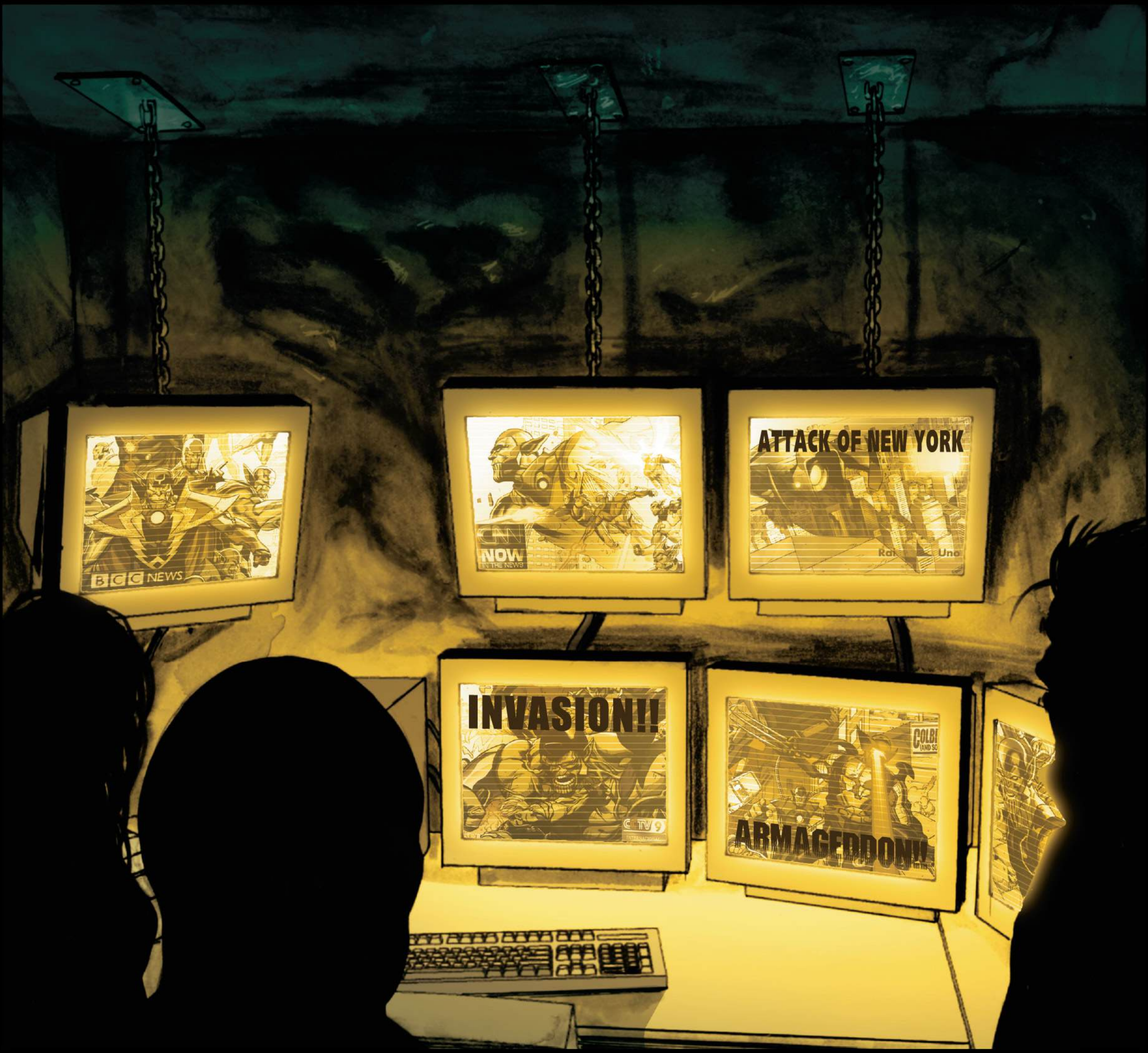
HOLY NERDS!
DRUID, POSITION TWO!
UGH!
DRUID?
I'M HERE!!
I-I GOT IT!
GET IT FASTER!!!
SCCRREEEEEEE
N-NORDRU KALIMANALA.
ANY TIME NOW!!!
HONK HONK
FD-9
THIS IS FORTUNA DELTA NINE, WE ARE IN AERIAL PURSUIT.
WE HAVE VISUAL.
HONK HONK
FD-9
HE'S ACTUALLY HONKING HIS HORN!
NORDRU KALIMANALA.

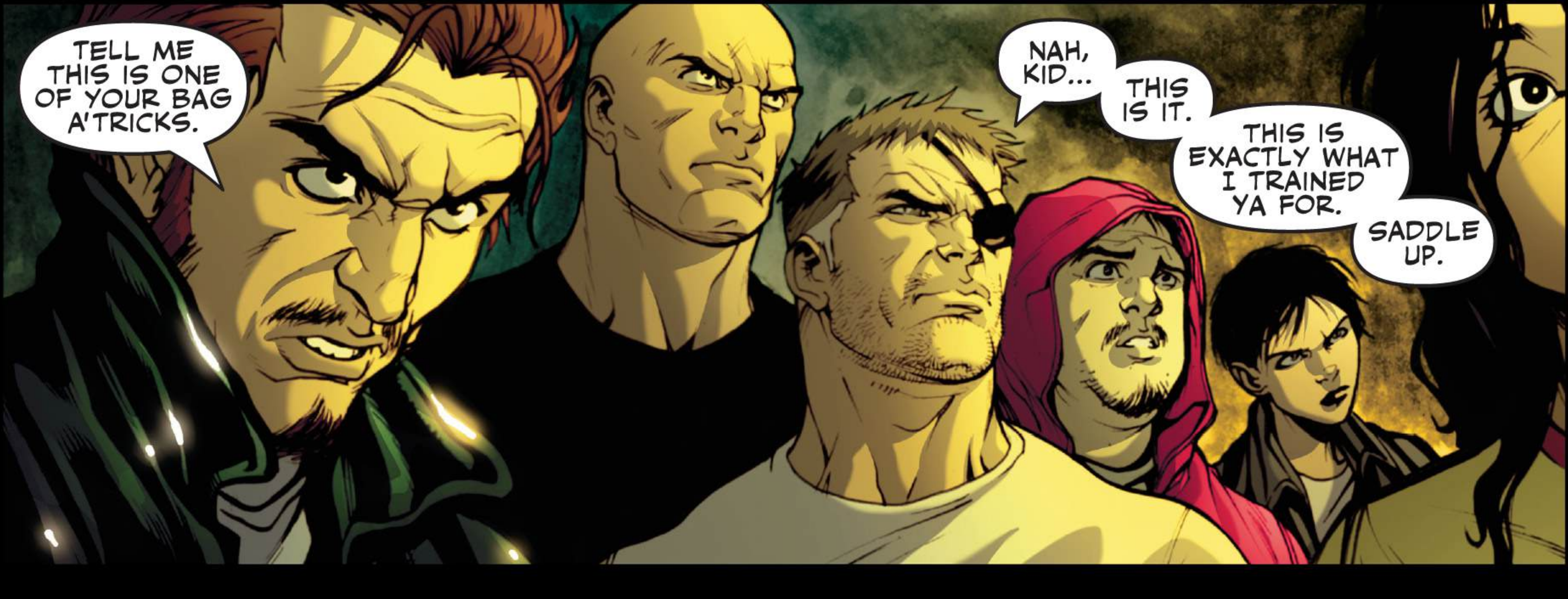
FD-9 THIS IS FORTUNA DELTA NINE, PERMISSION FOR PHYSICAL ENGAGEMENT.
SHC-1 YOU HAVE PERMISSION. OVER.
FD-9 ROGER THAT, OVER.
FD-9 HELICARRIER, ARE YOU SEEING SOME SORT OF--?
FD-7 FALL BACK!! NINER!!
FD-9 JEEZ!!
FD-2 MAYDAY!! MAYDAY!!
FD-9 THIS IS FORTUNA DELTA NINE!! WE LOST HER!!
SHC-1 REPEAT THAT, OVER?
FD-9 WE LOST VISUAL.
FD-9 WE LOST HER!!

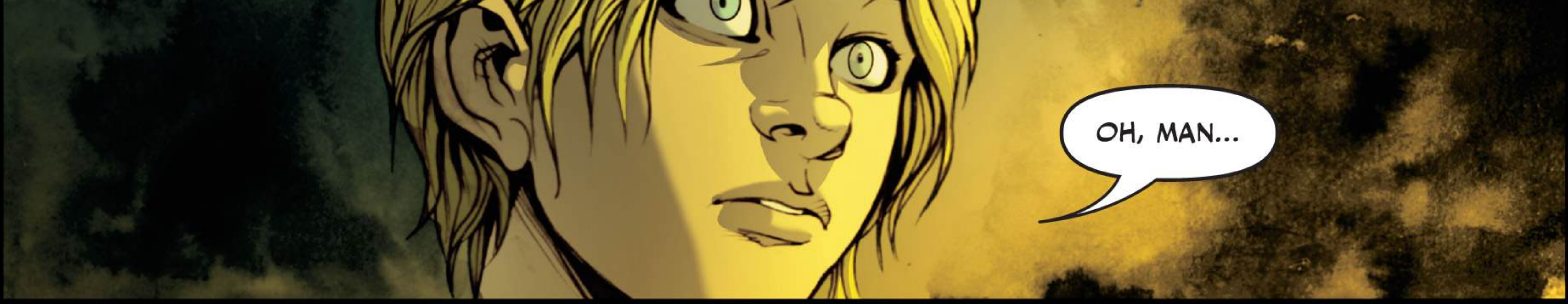
GUH!
DAMN.
FINAL POSITIONS.
END RADIO TRANSMISSIONS.
GUH!
NNN...
WELL, DAMN.
PEACE
SERIOUSLY.
HOW 'BOUT THAT?

TA DAA!!
OH MY GOD!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU THE LAST TIME I SPOKE TO YOU?
YOU TOLD ME TO WATCH OVER MY SHOULDER BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
WHAT ELSE DID I TELL YOU?
YOU TOLD ME TO MAKE SOME LIFE-MODEL DECOYS OF MYSELF IF I EVER FELT MY DANGER SENSE TINGLE.
YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED.
I *DID*.
NICE NEW DESIGN.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR TREASON.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THAT MEANS WE'RE DONE HERE.
THE PLACE IS GOING TO BE SURROUNDED IN FIVE MINUTES.
BREAK AWAY.
THIS IS NOT A DRILL.
GO!

WHAT WAS THAT?
THAT WAS A PERFECTLY EXECUTED TRAINING EXERCISE.
TRAINING EXERCISE???!!
YOU SAID MARIA HILL WAS A SKRULL AND TO BRING HER TO YOU.
I KNOW WHAT I SAID.
SO SHE'S NOT?
NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE... NO.
SO WHAT *THE HELL?*
I'M *TRAINING* YOU.
(AND I'M TRAINING HER TOO, BY THE WAY.)
HER WHO?
MARIA HILL. SHE NEEDS SMARTENING UP. AND SHE NEEDS IT FAST.
YOU *LIED* TO US?
EVERYTHING YOU *SAY* IS *A LIE!!*
SETTLE D--
EVERYTHING YOU SAY IS @#$%!
I'M *DONE.*
EVERYTHING *I* SAY, TO *YOU,* IS THE GOD'S TRUTH.
EVERYTHING!!
YOU'RE A *SOLDIER!!*
IF I TELL YOU RED IS GREEN, *RED* IS *GREEN.*
THAT'S THE GAME WE'RE PLAYING HERE, HILLBILLY, AND IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE THAT, GET YOUR ASS BACK BEHIND THE 7-11 COUNTER WHERE YOU BELONG.
WELL, THEN *DAMN,* OLD MAN, I GUESS THIS IS WHERE YOU AND I--
GUYS!

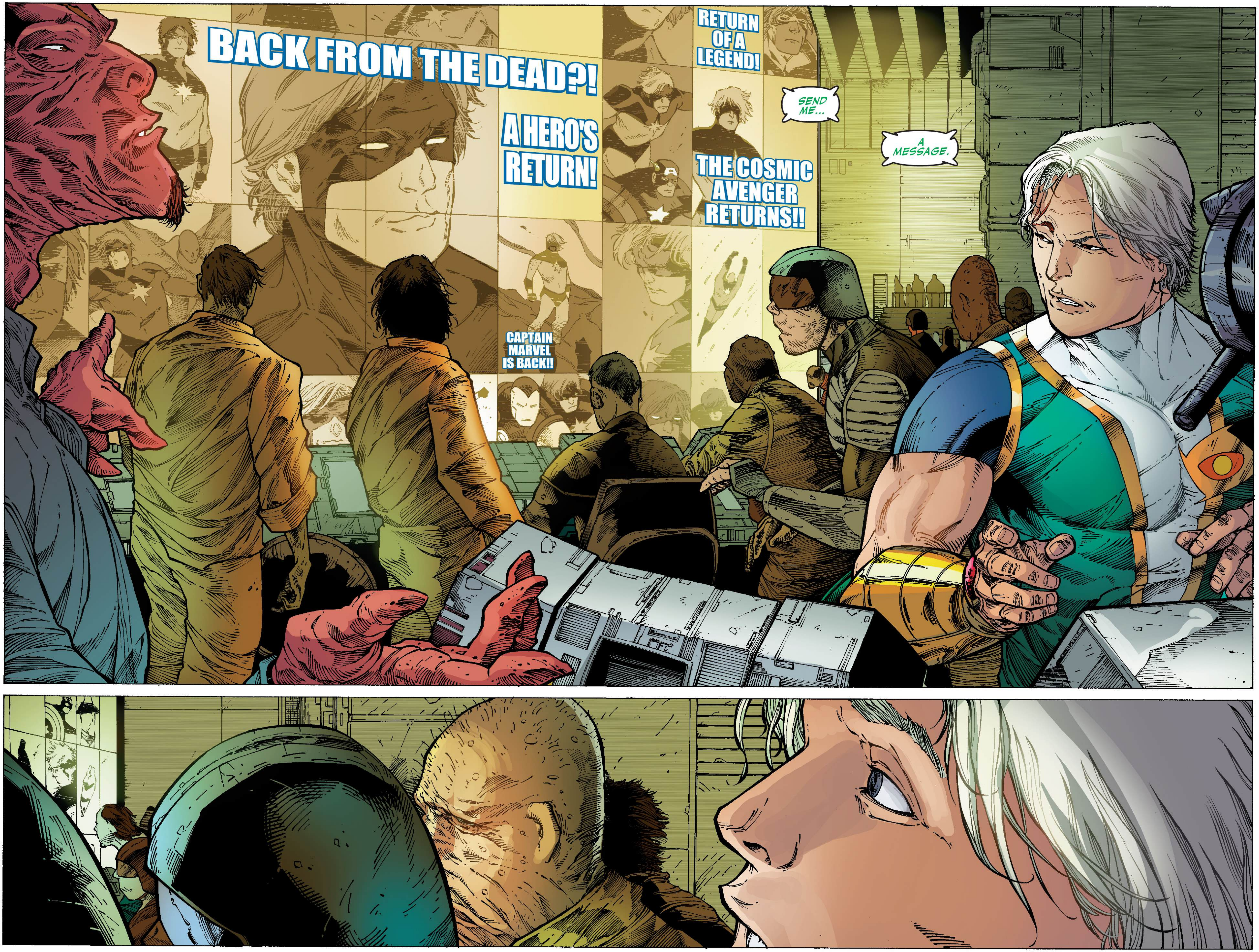

BBC NEWS
NOW IN THE NEWS
ATTACK OF NEW YORK
Rai Uno
INVASION!!
TV9
ARMAGEDDON!!


TELL ME THIS IS ONE OF YOUR BAG A'TRICKS.
NAH, KID...
THIS IS IT.
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I TRAINED YA FOR.
SADDLE UP.

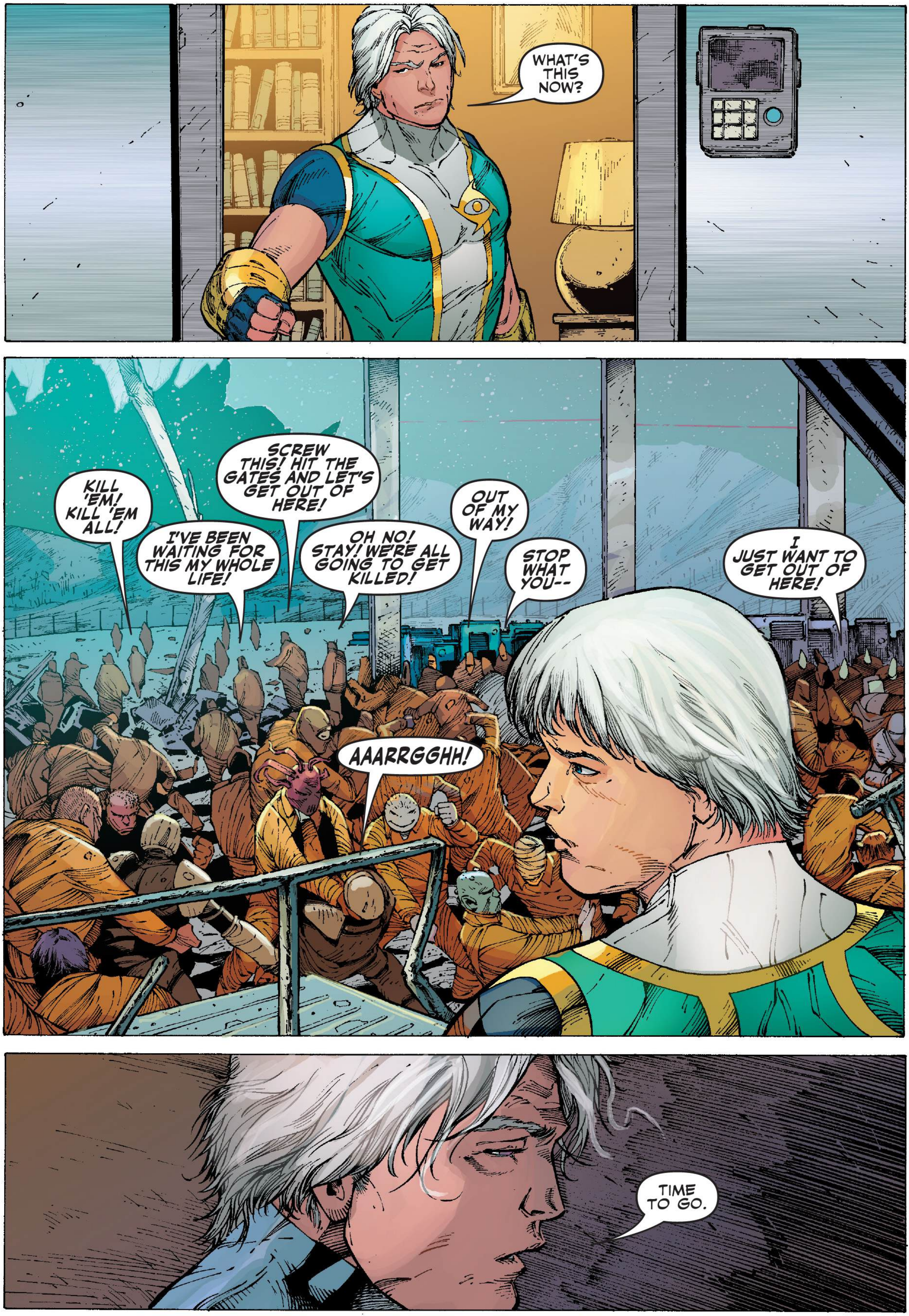

OH, MAN...

MIGHTY AVENGERS #19

THE CUBE MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY.
SUPREME INTELLIGENCE OF THE KREE EMPIRE. THIS IS NOH-VARR...
I WAS AN ENSIGN ABOARD THE 18TH KREE DIPLOMATIC GESTALT INTERSTELLAR SCHOONER CALLED THE MARVEL.
I HAVE TRAVELLED ACROSS MILLIONS OF ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS AND AM NOW TRAPPED ON ONE OF THE PLANET EARTHS.
AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHICH ONE.
I HAVE DECLARED WAR ON THE PLANET IN THE NAME OF THE KREE BUT I HAVE BEEN CAPTURED AS A PRISONER OF WAR.
I HAVE BEEN TORTURED MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY, BUT I HAVE WRESTED CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE PRISON AND HAVE PUNISHED MY CAPTORS FOR THE DISHONOR.
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
SUPREME INTELLIGENCE OF THE KREE EMPIRE... DO YOU KNOW I AM HERE? DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHO I AM?
SEND ME A SIGN.
ANYTHING.


BACK FROM THE DEAD?!
A HERO'S RETURN!
CAPTAIN MARVEL IS BACK!!
RETURN OF A LEGEND!
THE COSMIC AVENGER RETURNS!!
SEND ME...
A MESSAGE.

HE'S ALIVE? MAR-VELL?
ALIVE?
THE KREE TRAITOR, THE HUMAN PROTECTOR.
HE DIED A LEGEND **HERE** BUT--
HE'S ALIVE? AND RETURNED TO EARTH?
(IF IT'S HIM.)
COULD IT BE A HUMAN TRICK? COULD TONY STARK HAVE DONE THIS?
IF IT IS HIM... HE IS COMING FOR ME?
BUT AS WHAT? AN ALLY? A COMPATRIOT? NO.
NO.
I DECLARED WAR ON THIS PLANET.
SHOULD I EVEN BE HERE? SHOULD I EVEN HAVE DECLARED WAR ON EARTH?
THE HUMANS... THAT TONY STARK, THAT REED RICHARDS... THEY CAME HERE AND DARED ME TO **TAKE** THE MANTLE OF CAPTAIN MARVEL.
TO BE A HERO TO THESE PEOPLE.
I LAUGHED IN THEIR FACES.
GODS!
I.
DON'T.
KNOW.
WHAT.
TO.
DO.
I TOSSED MY LIFE AWAY WHEN I BOARDED MY SHIP.
I MAY BE STUCK HERE FOREVER MORE.
I'VE TRAVELLED TOO FAR...ACROSS TOO MANY DIMENSIONS.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I AM DOING HERE, AND NOW I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BATTLE MAR-VELL.
FOR WHAT?
AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT MY--
ALIEN VIRUS DETECTED.
ALIEN VIRUS DETECTED.
ALIEN VIRUS DETECTED.


WHAT'S THIS NOW?
KILL 'EM! KILL 'EM ALL!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MY WHOLE LIFE!
SCREW THIS! HIT THE GATES AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
OH NO! STAY! WE'RE ALL GOING TO GET KILLED!
OUT OF MY WAY!
STOP WHAT YOU--
I JUST WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
AAARRGGHH!
TIME TO GO.

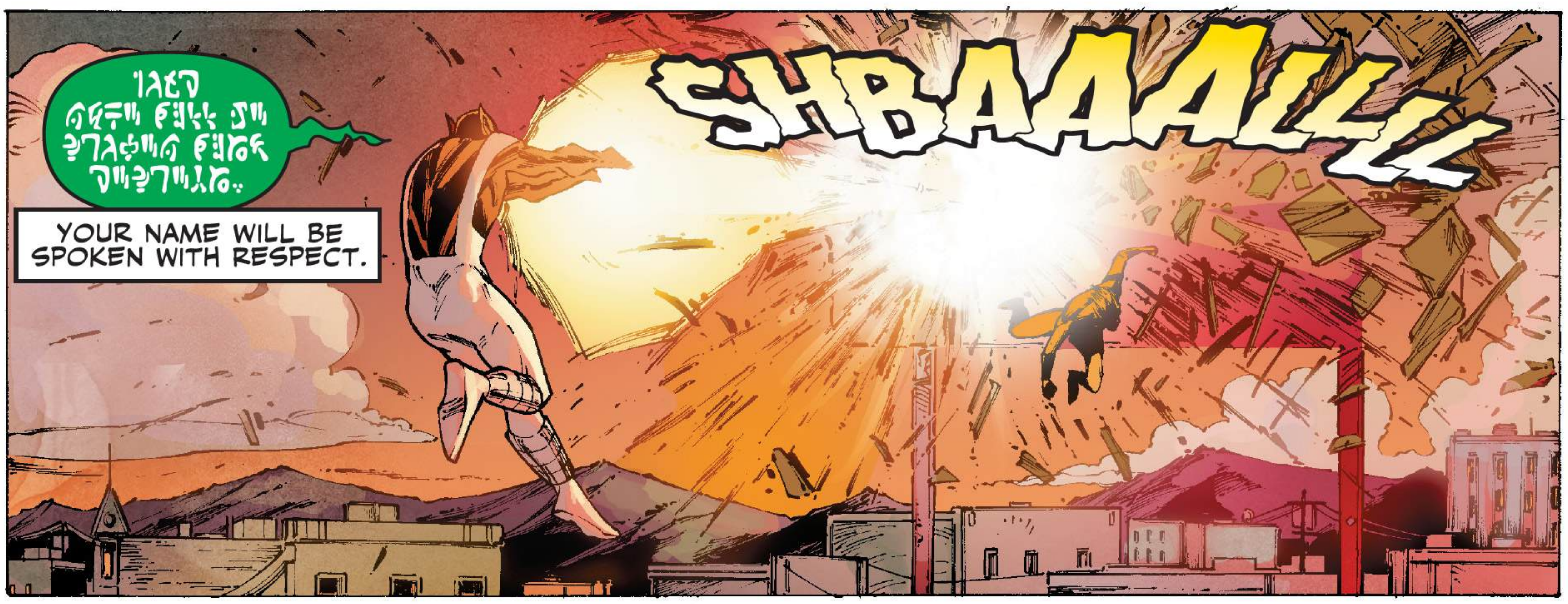
THUNDERBOLTS MOUNTAIN, COLORADO.
SUPREME INTELLIGENCE OF THE KREE EMPIRE, THIS IS CAPTAIN MAR-VELL OF THE KREE IMPERIAL MILITIA--
I WAS-- I'VE BEEN--
YOU SENT ME TO OBSERVE THE PLANET EARTH.
YOU--
NO. NO, I'M--
MY NAME IS-- MY NAME IS
KHN'NR.
KHN'NR.
MAR-VELL IS A KREE NAME.
KHN'NR IS MY NAME.
I AM A SKRULL SLEEPER AGENT WHO HAS HAD HIS ENTIRE EXISTENCE BOUND WITH MAR-VELL'S DNA. I AM LOCKED INTO MAR-VELL'S FORM.
THEY GAVE ME THESE--THESE REPLICAS OF THE KREE NEGA-BANDS.
NOT KREE.
I'M NOT HIM.
I'M NOT A KREE. I'M A SKRULL.
NOT KREE.
KHN'NR.
I AM A--A TRAITOR. MAR-VELL WAS A TRAITOR.
I WAS SENT HERE TO PROTECT EARTH.
I WAS SENT HERE TO INVADE EARTH.
I WAS SENT HERE TO DEFEND IT.
I WAS SENT HERE TO--
I--I'VE LOST CONTROL OF MYSELF.
PLEASE, PLEASE, SOMEONE HELP ME!!!

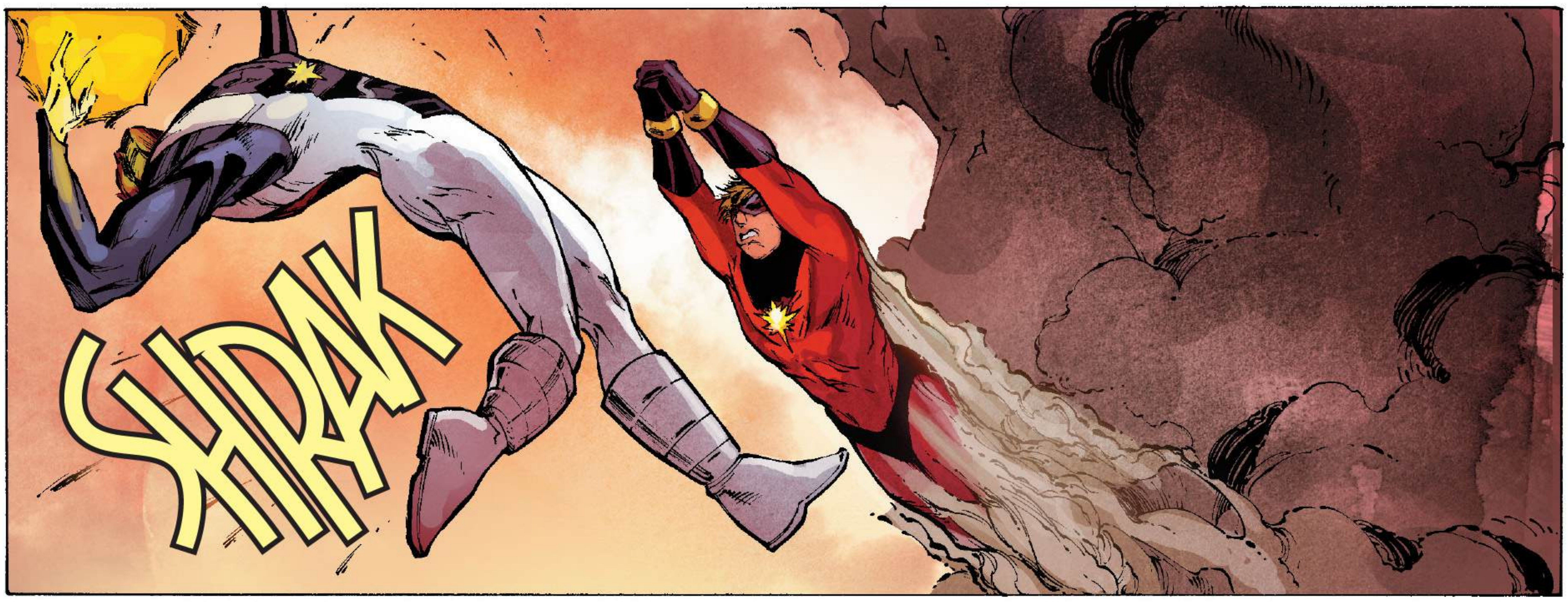
I CAN'T REMEMBER
WHAT.
MAKES.
ME.

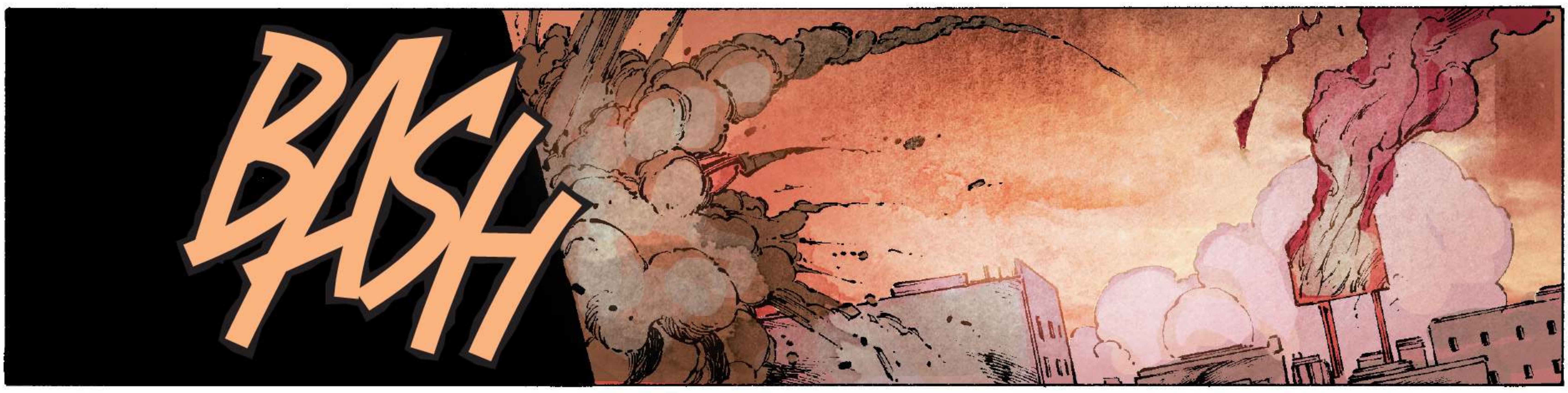
SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT--
FOOM
FOOM FOOM
FOOM FOOM
DDYY!AAGGHH!!
AAAAAGGHH!!
CRASH

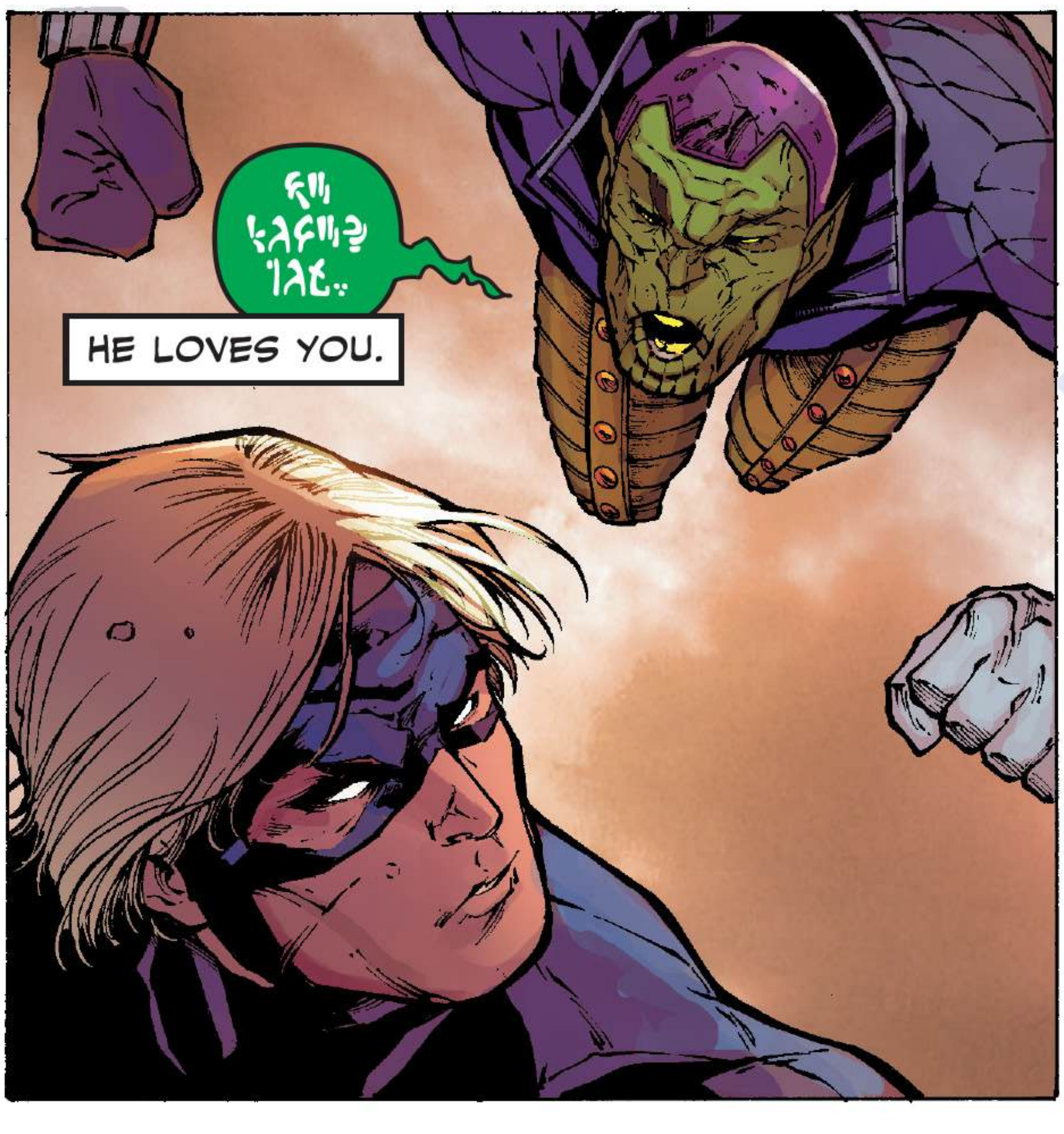
HE LOVES YOU.
YEAH?
WELL, I MUST TELL YOU, HE HAS A FUNNY WAY OF SHOWING IT.

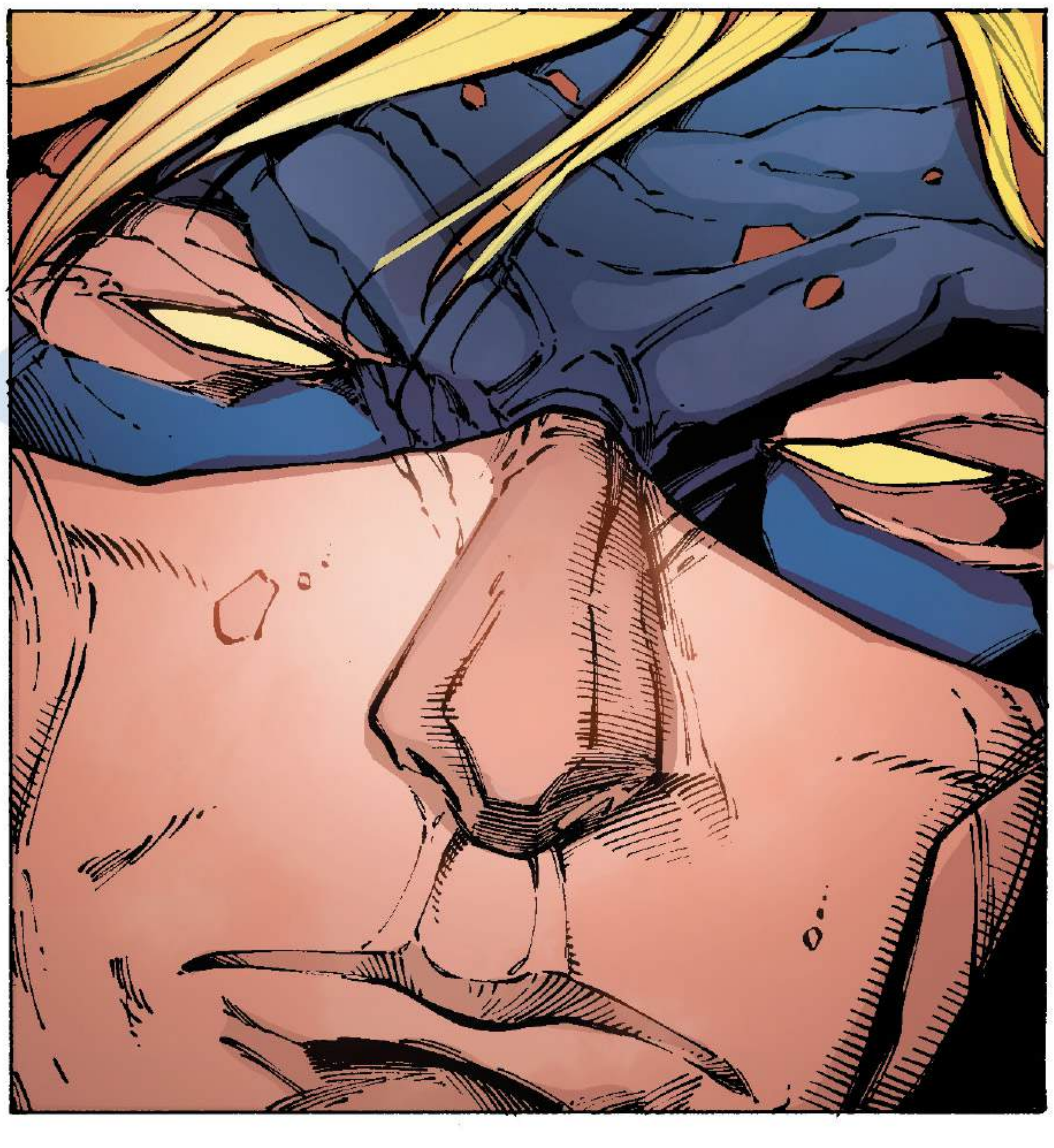
CANG
CRAKOOM
GO! GO!
YOU GET TO DIE WITH HONOR.
IN THE THROES OF BATTLE.
HOLY!
SPLSH
NO ONE BUT THE QUEEN WILL KNOW YOU FAILED.
FISSZZAAMMM

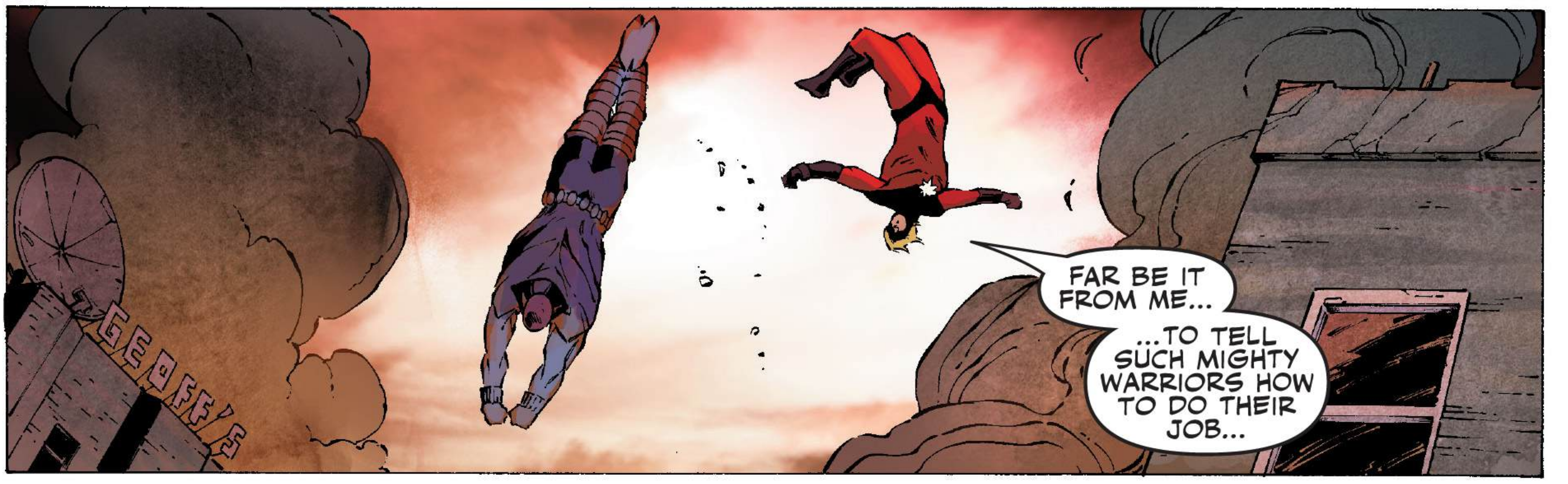

YOUR NAME WILL BE SPOKEN WITH RESPECT.
SHBAAALLL

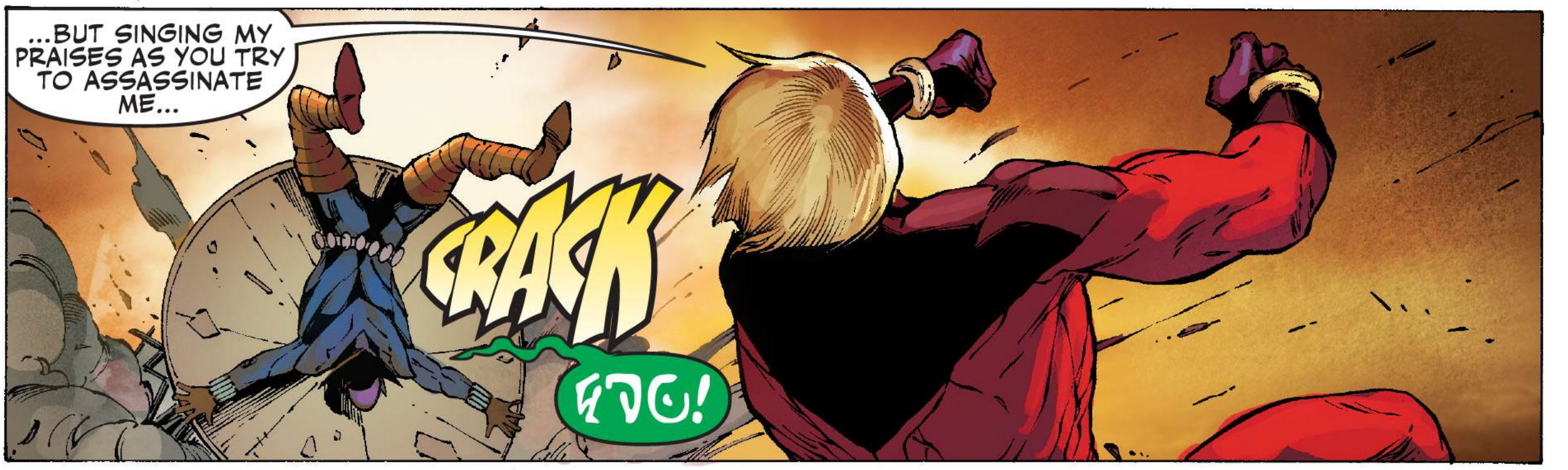

SHRAK

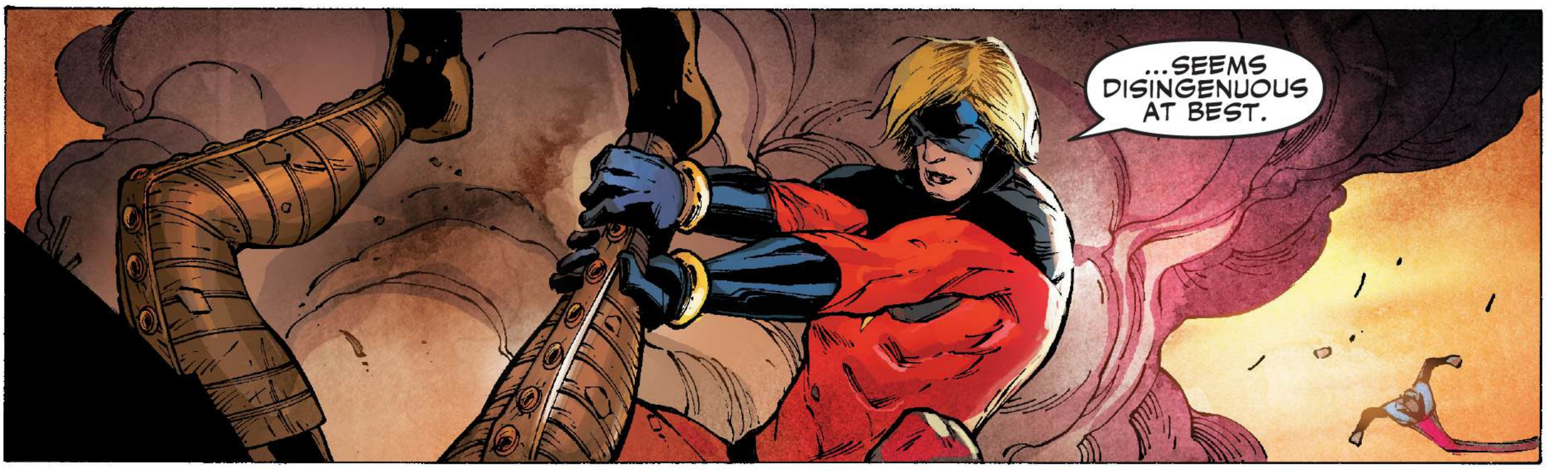

BASH

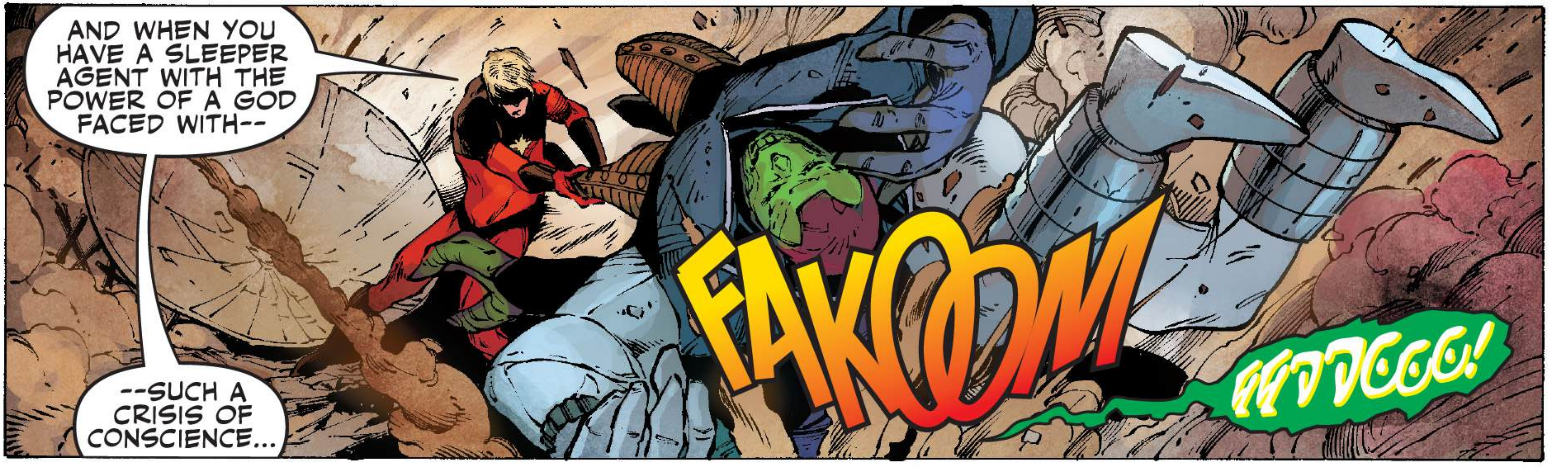

HE LOVES YOU.

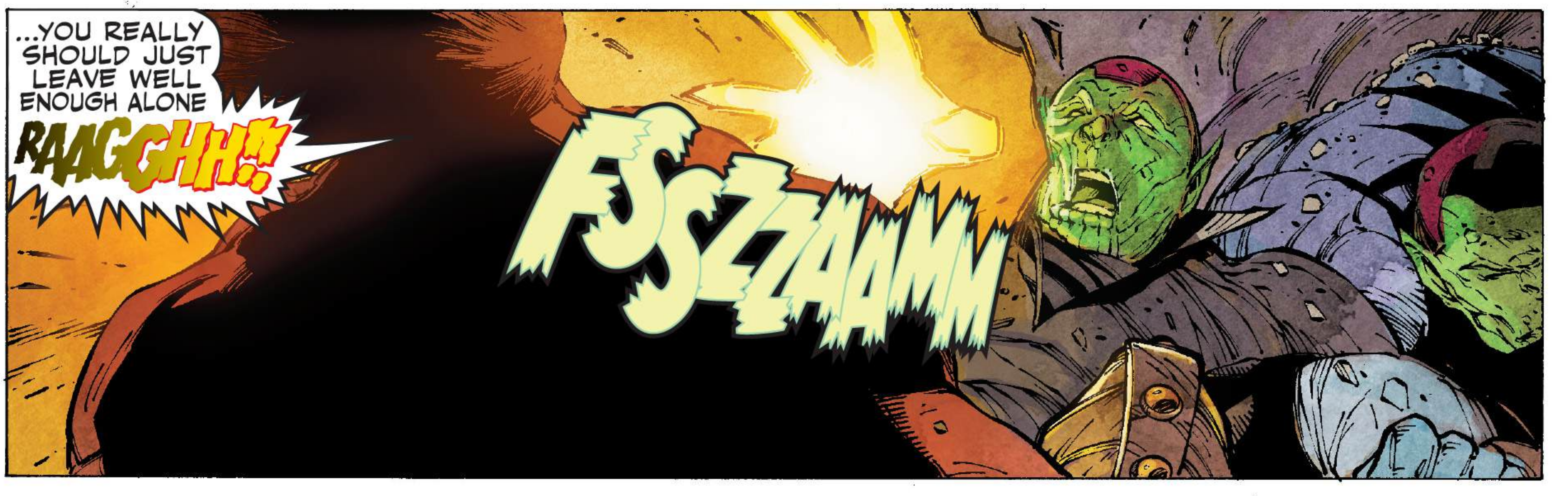



GEOFF'S
FAR BE IT FROM ME... ...TO TELL SUCH MIGHTY WARRIORS HOW TO DO THEIR JOB...


...BUT SINGING MY PRAISES AS YOU TRY TO ASSASSINATE ME...
CRACK


...SEEMS DISINGENUOUS AT BEST.


AND WHEN YOU HAVE A SLEEPER AGENT WITH THE POWER OF A GOD FACED WITH--
--SUCH A CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE...
FAKOOM

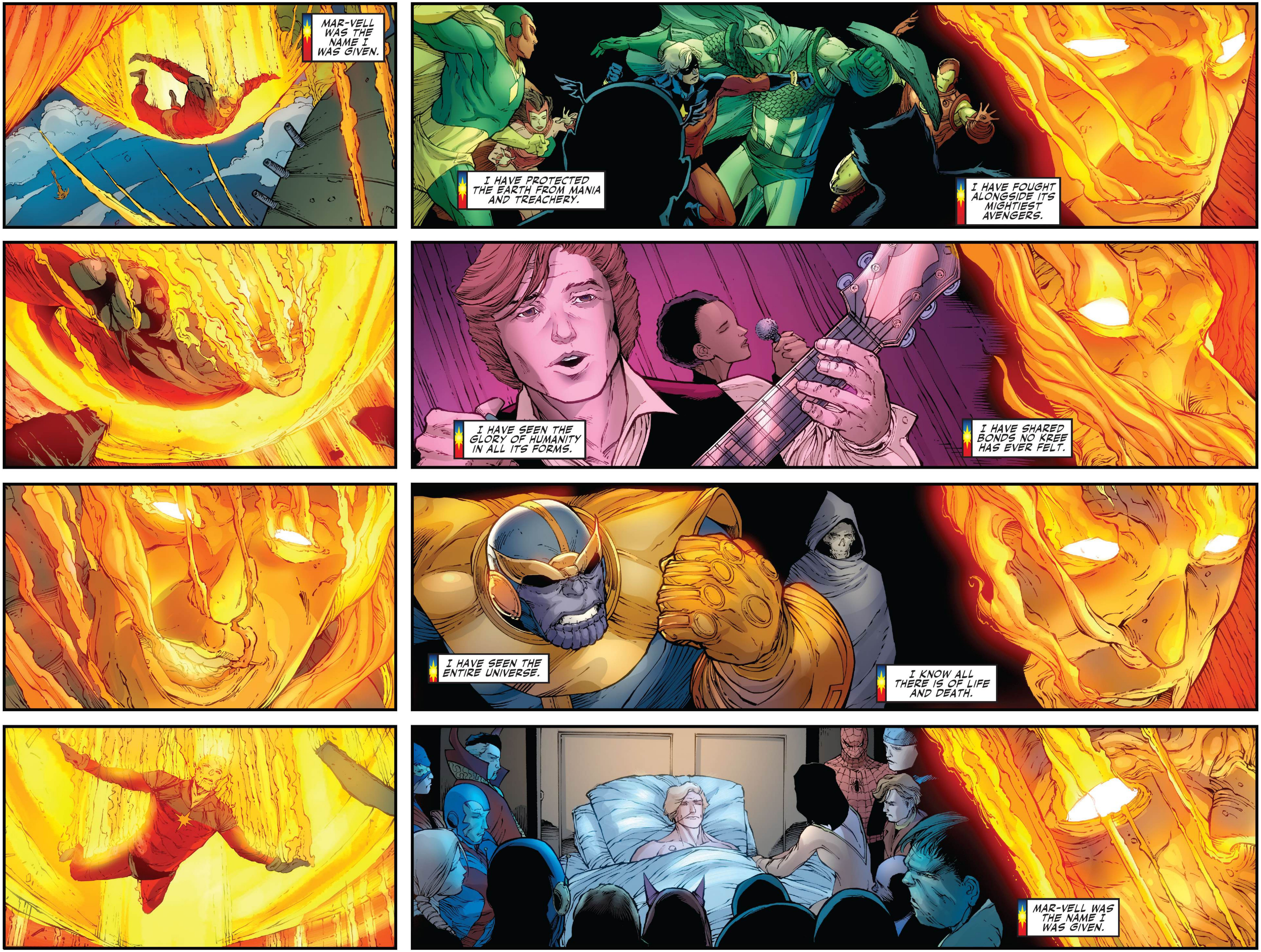

...YOU REALLY SHOULD JUST LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE
RAAGGHH!!
FSSZZAAMM

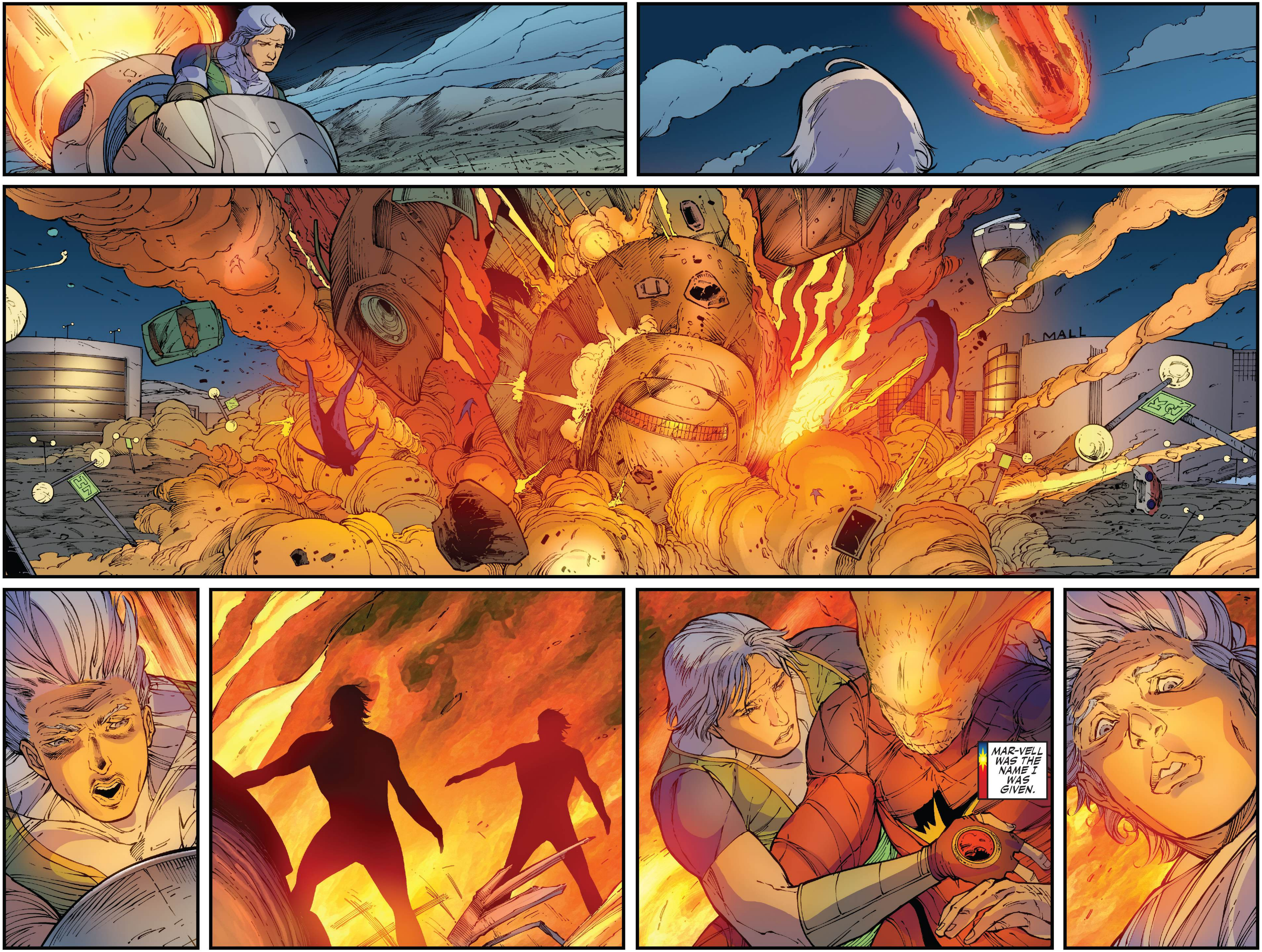
FROOMMMMM
CRACKABOOM

ATTACK ME.
TORTURE ME.
RUN FROM ME.
YOU RUN FROM **ME?**
YOU RUN FROM THE KREE WARRIOR **MAR-VELL.**
AND YOU MAKE IT VERY EASY FOR ME.
VERY EASY FOR ME TO KNOW...
WHAT TO DO.

SCRABOOM
BOOM

I DO NOT FEAR DEATH.
I HAVE DIED BEFORE.
SUPREME INTELLIGENCE OF THE KREE EMPIRE, THIS IS CAPTAIN MAR-VELL OF THE KREE IMPERIAL MILITIA.
MAR-VELL IS A KREE NAME.


MAR-VELL WAS THE NAME I WAS GIVEN.
I HAVE PROTECTED THE EARTH FROM MANIA AND TREACHERY.
I HAVE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE ITS MIGHTIEST AVENGERS.
I HAVE SEEN THE GLORY OF HUMANITY IN ALL ITS FORMS.
I HAVE SHARED BONDS NO KREE HAS EVER FELT.
I HAVE SEEN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.
I KNOW ALL THERE IS OF LIFE AND DEATH.
MAR-VELL WAS THE NAME I WAS GIVEN.

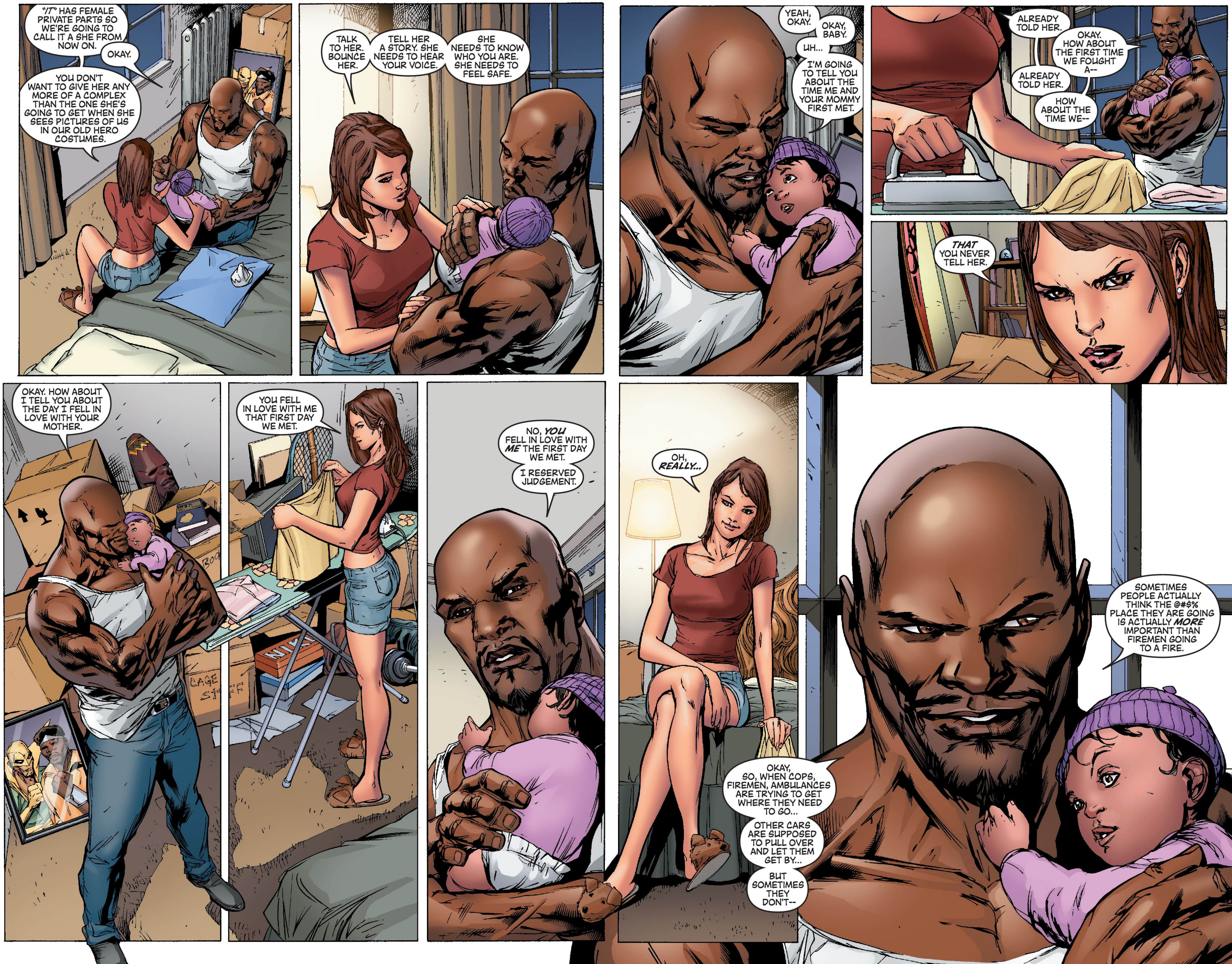

MALL
MAR-VELL WAS THE NAME I WAS GIVEN.

AFTER HALL & BREEDING

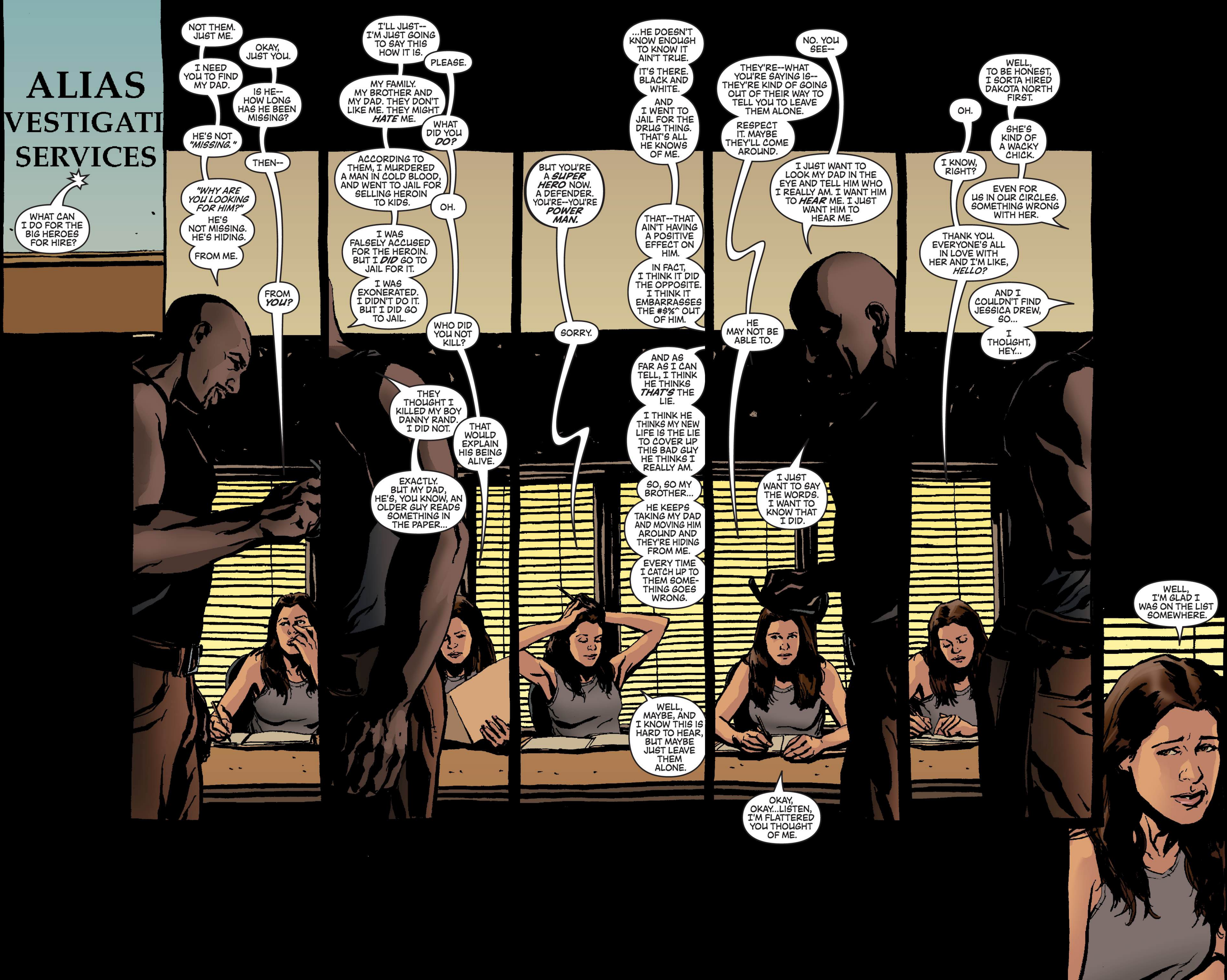
NEW AVENGERS #47

WEEKS AGO...
SWEET CHRISTMAS...

IT'S GREEN.
IT'S JUST POOP, MISTER CAGE.
BABIES POOP GREEN.
AND YELLOW.
YEP.
HOW CAN IT BE GREEN AND YELLOW?!
AIN'T IT SOMETHING.
NO ONE TOLD ME ABOUT THIS.
BABIES POOP.
WHAT DO I DO WITH IT NOW?
PICK HER UP AND BURP HER, SING TO HER.
I DON'T SING.
BABY ISN'T GOING TO JUDGE YOU.
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HER NOW?
I LOVE HOW YOU ACT LIKE I HAVE ALL THIS BABY EXPERIENCE.
FIRST DAY YOU MET HER WAS THE FIRST DAY I MET HER.
I THINK SHE WANTS YOU.
YOU'RE SCARED OF HER.
I AIN'T SCARED.
YOU'VE FOUGHT DOCTOR DOOM.
I AIN'T SCARED.
WHAT'S IT DOING NOW?


"IT" HAS FEMALE PRIVATE PARTS SO WE'RE GOING TO CALL IT A SHE FROM NOW ON.
OKAY.
YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE HER ANY MORE OF A COMPLEX THAN THE ONE SHE'S GOING TO GET WHEN SHE SEES PICTURES OF US IN OUR OLD HERO COSTUMES.
TALK TO HER. BOUNCE HER.
TELL HER A STORY. SHE NEEDS TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.
SHE NEEDS TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE. SHE NEEDS TO FEEL SAFE.
YEAH, OKAY.
OKAY, BABY.
UH...
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME ME AND YOUR MOMMY FIRST MET.
ALREADY TOLD HER.
OKAY. HOW ABOUT THE FIRST TIME WE FOUGHT A--
ALREADY TOLD HER.
HOW ABOUT THE TIME WE--
THAT YOU NEVER TELL HER.
OKAY. HOW ABOUT I TELL YOU ABOUT THE DAY I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOUR MOTHER.
CAGE STUFF
YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH ME THAT FIRST DAY WE MET.
NO, *YOU* FELL IN LOVE WITH *ME* THE FIRST DAY WE MET.
I RESERVED JUDGEMENT.
OH, *REALLY...*
OKAY, SO, WHEN COPS, FIREMEN, AMBULANCES ARE TRYING TO GET WHERE THEY NEED TO GO...
OTHER CARS ARE SUPPOSED TO PULL OVER AND LET THEM GET BY...
BUT SOMETIMES THEY DON'T--
SOMETIMES PEOPLE ACTUALLY THINK THE @#$% PLACE THEY ARE GOING IS ACTUALLY *MORE* IMPORTANT THAN FIREMEN GOING TO A FIRE.

WHERE YOU ARE GOING IS NOT MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHERE THEY WERE GOING!
WEEEOOOWEEEOOOWEEEOOOWEE
WEEEOOO WEEEOOO WEEEOOO
CARUMPH
I-I WILL SUE THE--!
GET YOUR ASS BACK IN THE CAR!
ABOUT TIME!
YOU ARE THE MAN!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP CLAP
JESSICA JONES.
YOU REMEMBER MY NAME.
TOLD YOU I WASN'T EVER GOING TO FORGET IT.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
GUESS IT HAS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY NEIGHBOR-HOOD?
I WAS COMING TO SEE *YOU*, ACTUALLY.
WHAT?
I NEED TO HIRE YOU.


ALIAS
VESTIGATI
SERVICES
WHAT CAN I DO FOR THE BIG HEROES FOR HIRE?
NOT THEM. JUST ME.
OKAY, JUST YOU.
I NEED YOU TO FIND MY DAD.
IS HE-- HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN MISSING?
HE'S NOT "MISSING."
THEN--
"WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR HIM?" HE'S NOT MISSING. HE'S HIDING.
FROM ME.
FROM YOU?
I'LL JUST-- I'M JUST GOING TO SAY THIS HOW IT IS.
PLEASE.
MY FAMILY. MY BROTHER AND MY DAD. THEY DON'T LIKE ME. THEY MIGHT HATE ME.
WHAT DID YOU DO?
ACCORDING TO THEM, I MURDERED A MAN IN COLD BLOOD, AND WENT TO JAIL FOR SELLING HEROIN TO KIDS.
OH.
I WAS FALSELY ACCUSED FOR THE HEROIN. BUT I DID GO TO JAIL FOR IT.
I WAS EXONERATED. I DIDN'T DO IT. BUT I DID GO TO JAIL.
WHO DID YOU NOT KILL?
THEY THOUGHT I KILLED MY BOY DANNY RAND. I DID NOT.
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN HIS BEING ALIVE.
EXACTLY. BUT MY DAD, HE'S, YOU KNOW, AN OLDER GUY READS SOMETHING IN THE PAPER...
BUT YOU'RE A SUPER HERO NOW. A DEFENDER. YOU'RE--YOU'RE POWER MAN.
SORRY.
...HE DOESN'T KNOW ENOUGH TO KNOW IT AIN'T TRUE.
IT'S THERE. BLACK AND WHITE.
AND I WENT TO JAIL FOR THE DRUG THING. THAT'S ALL HE KNOWS OF ME.
THAT--THAT AIN'T HAVING A POSITIVE EFFECT ON HIM.
IN FACT, I THINK IT DID THE OPPOSITE. I THINK IT EMBARRASSES THE #$%^ OUT OF HIM.
AND AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, I THINK HE THINKS THAT'S THE LIE.
I THINK HE THINKS MY NEW LIFE IS THE LIE TO COVER UP THIS BAD GUY HE THINKS I REALLY AM.
SO, SO MY BROTHER...
HE KEEPS TAKING MY DAD AND MOVING HIM AROUND AND THEY'RE HIDING FROM ME.
EVERY TIME I CATCH UP TO THEM SOMETHING GOES WRONG.
WELL, MAYBE, AND I KNOW THIS IS HARD TO HEAR, BUT MAYBE JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE.
THEY'RE--WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS-- THEY'RE KIND OF GOING OUT OF THEIR WAY TO TELL YOU TO LEAVE THEM ALONE.
NO. YOU SEE--
RESPECT IT. MAYBE THEY'LL COME AROUND.
I JUST WANT TO LOOK MY DAD IN THE EYE AND TELL HIM WHO I REALLY AM. I WANT HIM TO HEAR ME. I JUST WANT HIM TO HEAR ME.
HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO.
I JUST WANT TO SAY THE WORDS. I WANT TO KNOW THAT I DID.
OKAY, OKAY...LISTEN, I'M FLATTERED YOU THOUGHT OF ME.
OH.
WELL, TO BE HONEST, I SORTA HIRED DAKOTA NORTH FIRST.
SHE'S KIND OF A WACKY CHICK.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
EVEN FOR US IN OUR CIRCLES. SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER.
THANK YOU. EVERYONE'S ALL IN LOVE WITH HER AND I'M LIKE, HELLO?
AND I COULDN'T FIND JESSICA DREW, SO...
I THOUGHT, HEY...
WELL, I'M GLAD I WAS ON THE LIST SOMEWHERE.

HELL'S KITCHEN
HEY, MAN, SO WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
YAKUZA.
COOL.
LET'S DO IT.
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW ANYTHING ELSE?
YAKUZA. GANGSTERS. BAD GUYS.
LET'S JUST BEAT THE HOLY--
GLEE GLEE
HEY, NO CELL PHONES DURING A SUPER HERO TEAM-UP.
WHAT IS IT?
JONES: THINK I FOUND YOUR DAD?
NOTHIN'.
THEY'RE PAST THIS WALL.
LET'S DO IT THEN.
WHAM
MURDOCK.
MAN, WE WERE SO CLOSE.
SO, SO CLOSE.
WE HAD HIM.
WE ALMOST HAD HIM.

ALMOST DOESN'T COUNT.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA
CAN I HELP YOU?
IS JAMES LUCAS HERE?
WHO ARE YOU?!
MY NAME IS JESSICA JONES. DOES JAMES LUCAS LIVE HERE?
I...
I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS.
HE GOES BY THE NAME JAMES GEARY NOW.
BUT IT WAS JAMES LUCAS.
PLEASE...

WHO *ARE* YOU?!
MY NAME IS JESSICA JONES. I'M A PRIVATE DE--
YOU *GOT* TO BE KIDDING ME.
DETECTIVE. I'M NOT HERE TO--
YOU *LISTEN* TO ME. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT *ANYTHING.*
YOU HEAR ME?! I'LL CALL THE COPS. I'LL CALL THE--
I'M HERE BECAUSE OF HIS SON, LUKE...
LUKE CAGE...
HE'S LOOKING FOR HIS FATHER.
I'M NOT HERE TO DO ANYTHING-- I'M HERE TO TRY AND HELP.
SON JUST WANTS TO TALK TO HIS FATHER.
WELL, THE FATHER DON'T WANT TO TALK TO THE SON.

IS HE OKAY?
LUKE JUST WANTS TO KNOW-- HE'D WANT TO KNOW IF HE'S OKAY.
THE MAN--THE MAN'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT. YOU SEE?
A MAN HAS-- THE WAY I SEE IT, A MAN HAS AN IMAGE IN HIS HEAD OF WHAT HE WANTED HIS LIFE TO BE. HIS KIDS...
STRUGGLE, HEARTACHE, ALL OF THAT IS FINE. A MAN CAN SEE THAT THROUGH .
BUT ALL THIS WITH THE SUPER HEROES, AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER SON...
JAMES JUNIOR...
YEAH, YOU KNOW, HE DIED. JAMES JUNIOR.
HIS OWN ***NAMESAKE.***
THE BOY IS DEAD.
I TRIED TO GET JAMES TO SEE HOW IMPORTANT FAMILY IS. I DID.
BUT HE WON'T HEAR IT. HE CAN'T YET.
BUT, AND THIS IS TRUE, I SEE HE KEEPS AN EYE ON LUKE.
ON THE INTERNET. HE SEES WHEN LUKE DOES WELL. HE SEES IT.
BUT IT'S NOT WHAT THE MAN WANTED. HE LOST A WIFE, A SON. IT'S NOT WHAT HE WANTED.
BUT LUKE'S ALL HE HAS LEFT.
FROM ***THAT*** LIFE.
I'M SORRY, YOU ARE...?

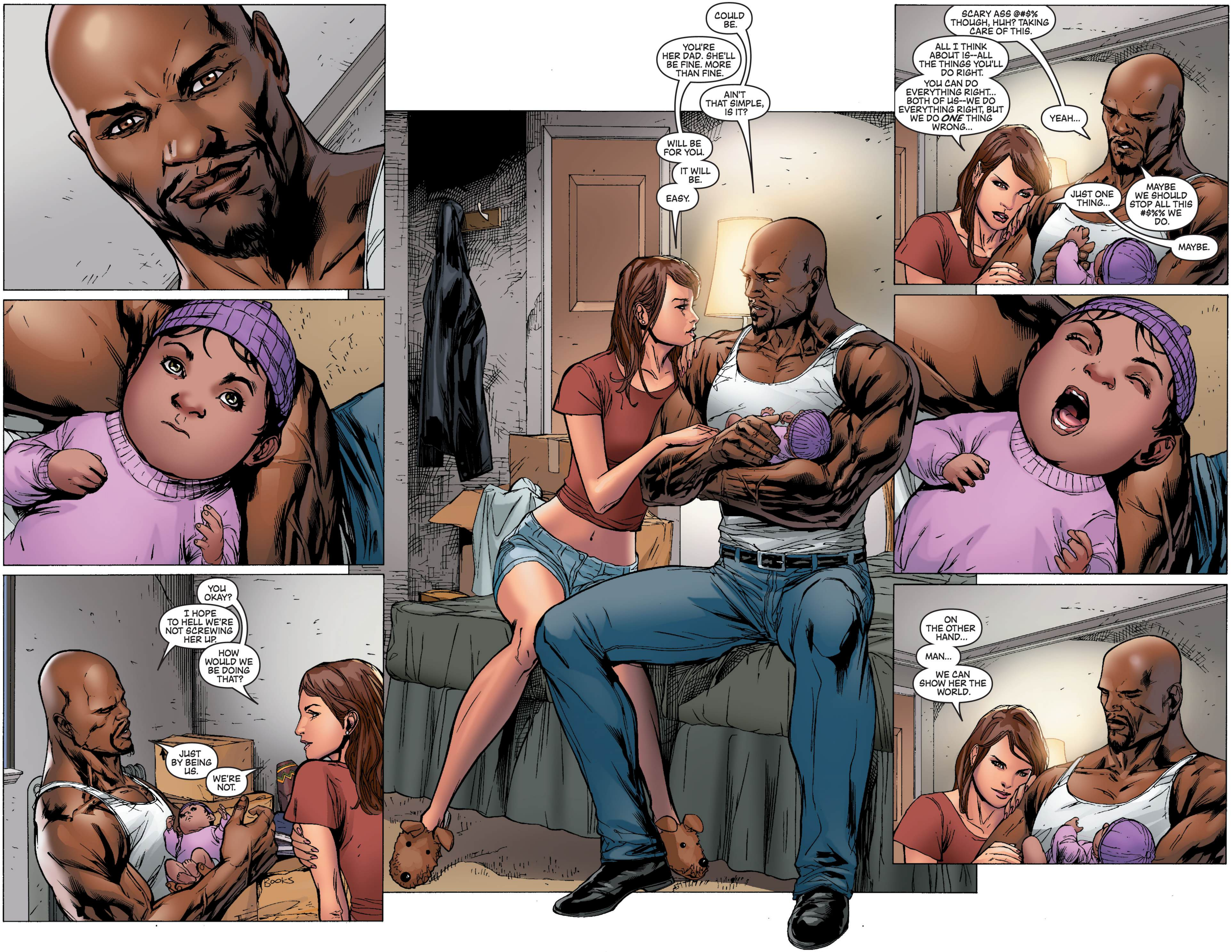
I'M HIS WIFE.
OH, I--I DIDN'T--*THAT* I DIDN'T KNOW.
FOR ABOUT A YEAR.
WE MET AT CHURCH.
I FOUND OUT ABOUT ALL THIS WITH HIS SON JUST RECENTLY, REALLY. NOT EVEN A MONTH AGO.
YOU GOTTA-- A MAN LIKE MY HUSBAND-- YOU GOT TO LET HIM GO AT HIS OWN PACE.
IF THERE IS TO BE ANY KIND OF RECONCILIATION, HE'S GOT TO DECIDE TO DO IT.
NO ONE OR NO THING IS GOING TO MAKE HIM.
OKAY, WELL, YEAH...
CAN YOU TELL HIM WE WERE HERE?
WE?

PA...?

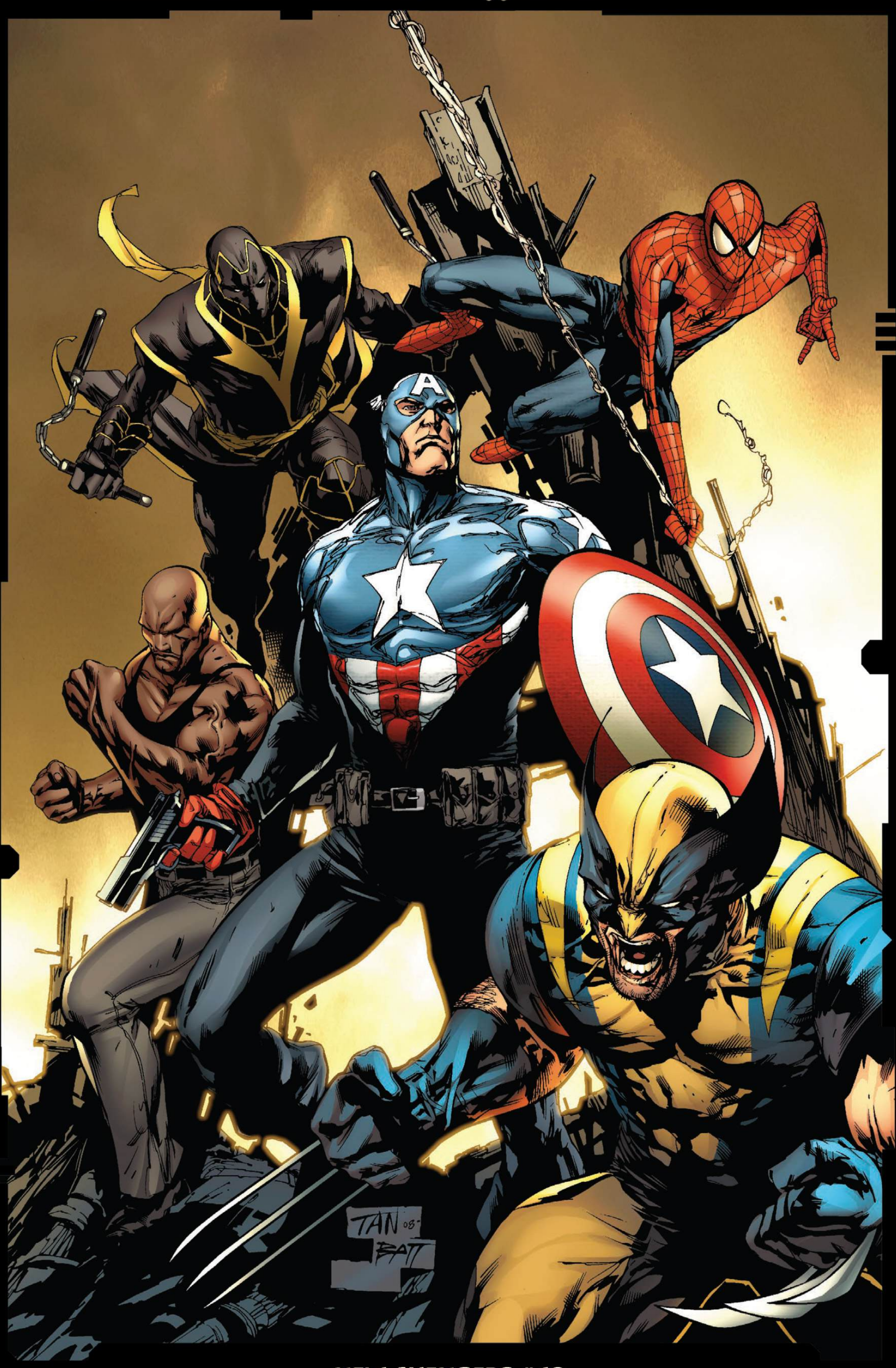
MAYBE ONE DAY...

DAIRY QUEEN
BBQ 139
TOLD YA MAYBE NOT TO COME.
YEAH.
DAIRY QUEEN
TRY A PUMPKIN PIE BLIZZARD BBQ 139

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM THE MAN? YOU USED TO WEAR A METAL TIARA.
IN PUBLIC.
DAKOTA NORTH, SERIOUSLY?
NEVER AGAIN.


YOU OKAY?
I HOPE TO HELL WE'RE NOT SCREWING HER UP.
HOW WOULD WE BE DOING THAT?
JUST BY BEING US.
WE'RE NOT.
BOOKS
YOU'RE HER DAD. SHE'LL BE FINE. MORE THAN FINE.
COULD BE.
AIN'T THAT SIMPLE, IS IT?
WILL BE FOR YOU.
IT WILL BE.
EASY.
SCARY ASS @#$% THOUGH, HUH? TAKING CARE OF THIS.
ALL I THINK ABOUT IS--ALL THE THINGS YOU'LL DO RIGHT. YOU CAN DO EVERYTHING RIGHT... BOTH OF US--WE DO EVERYTHING RIGHT, BUT WE DO *ONE* THING WRONG...
YEAH...
JUST ONE THING...
MAYBE WE SHOULD STOP ALL THIS #$%% WE DO.
MAYBE.
ON THE OTHER HAND...
MAN...
WE CAN SHOW HER THE WORLD.

CENTRAL PARK, TODAY
OH GOD!
NO!
JESSICA!
THE HELL?
WHERE IS SHE GOING?!
THE HELL HAPPENED?
GO! GO!
WHAT THE HELL, JESS?!
THE *BABY,* LUKE.
THEY TOOK *OUR BABY!*
WHAT?
JARVIS. THE JARVIS THAT WAS HERE.
IT WAS ONE OF *THEM!!* ONE OF THE *SKRULLS!* AND--AND I *GAVE HIM THE BABY!*
AND NOW--AND *NOW...*

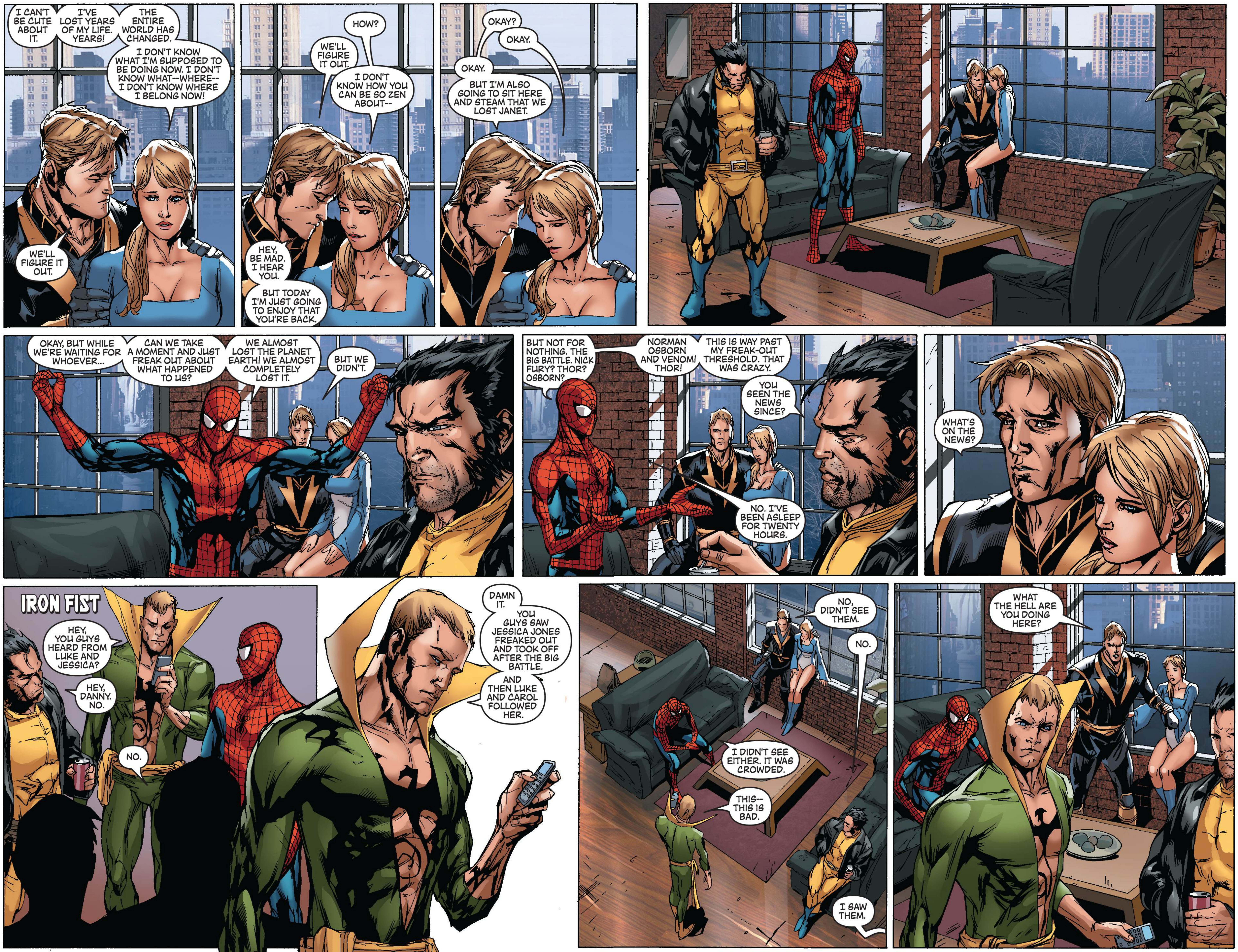


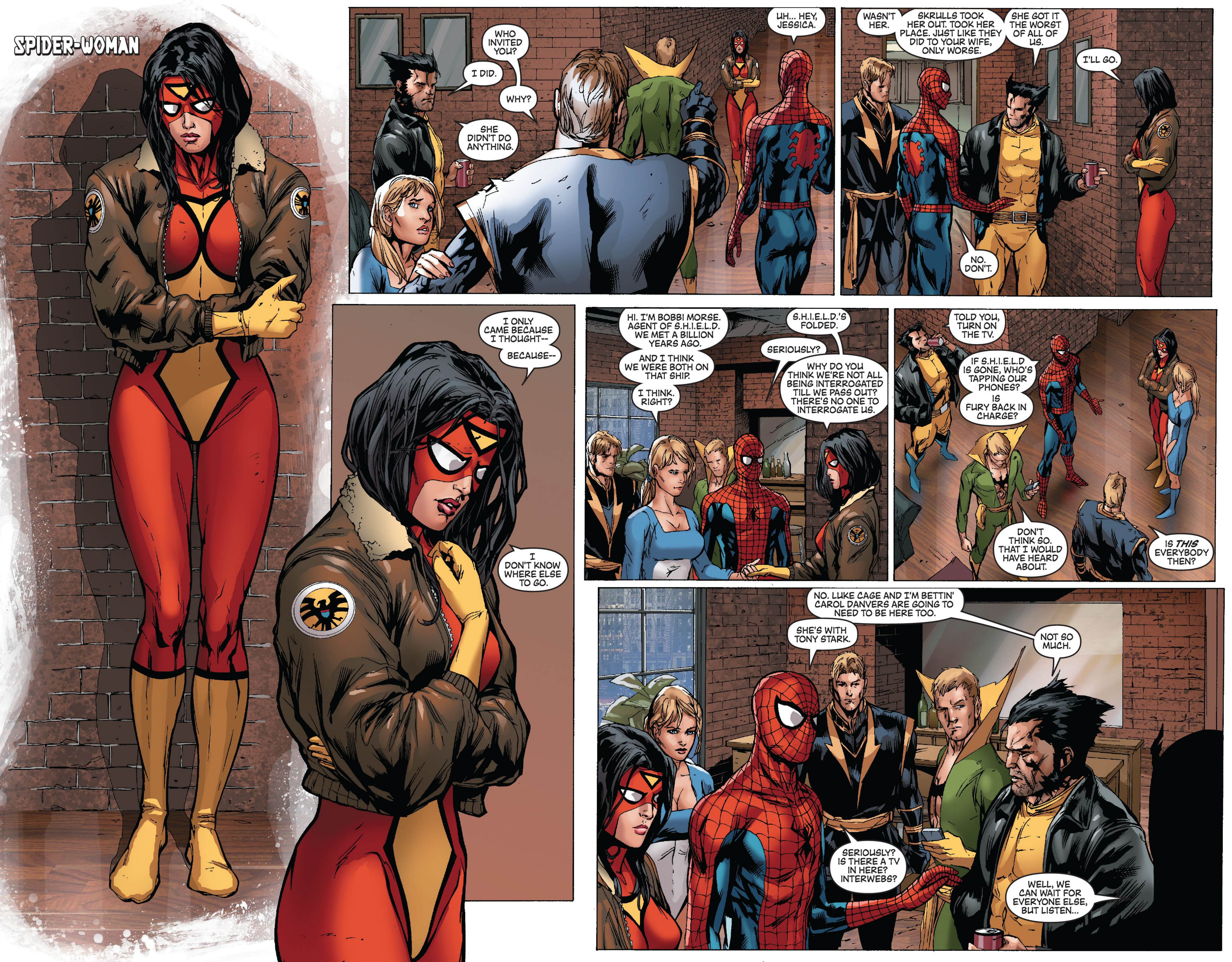
NEW AVENGERS #48

CENTRAL PARK, SKRULL BATTLEFIELD
BARTON, LISTEN, WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS... ...
YEAH, OKAY.... WE CAN DO THAT.
GOOD.
YEAH?
YEAH?
WHAT?

THE BRONX, THE NEXT DAY.
SPIDER-MAN
HMMM?
WOLVERINE
OKAY, THEN...
THERE IS NO SPOON.
THERE IS NO SPOON. *THERE IS NO SPOON.* ***THERE IS NO SPOON.*** ***THERE IS NO AAAGGHH!***

I AM BEYOND TIRED.
TRY A BEER, BARTON.
MY BODY'S A TEMPLE.
PUT BEER IN YOUR TEMPLE.
RONIN
OKAY, *THAT* IS *SO* WEIRD.
AND COOL.
MOCKINGBIRD
S'UP, WEBS.
THIS-- THIS IS CAPTAIN AMERICA'S HOUSE?
YUP.
AND THAT GUY. AT THE FIGHT. HE'S THE NEW CAPTAIN AMERICA?
YUP.
DO WE KNOW WHO HE IS?
BUCKY.
WHAT'S HIS ADULT NAME?
BUCKY. CAP'S OLD PARTNER. HE'S CAP NOW. THIS IS CAP'S PLACE.
WHERE IS HE?
SAID HE'LL BE OUT IN A MINUTE.
AND WE THINK HE'S NOT A SKRULL BECAUSE?
BECAUSE WE'RE DONE WITH THEM.
WE HOPE.
WE DO.
AND WHY ARE WE HERE?
WE SHOULD WAIT FOR EVERYONE BEFORE WE GET INTO IT.
HEY, SPIDEY...
THIS IS MY WIFE, MOCKINGBIRD.
OH, YEAH, WE HAD A COUPLE OF TEAM-UPS BACK IN THE DAY.
YEP.
SO, UH, HOW'S NOT BEING DEAD?
PRETTY GOOD.
"YEAH?" HE ASKED AWKWARDLY.
I'M SORRY, NO... YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS...?


I CAN'T BE CUTE ABOUT IT.
I'VE LOST YEARS OF MY LIFE. YEARS!
THE ENTIRE WORLD HAS CHANGED.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE DOING NOW. I DON'T KNOW WHAT--WHERE-- I DON'T KNOW WHERE I BELONG NOW!
WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
HOW?
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN BE SO ZEN ABOUT--
HEY, BE MAD. I HEAR YOU.
BUT TODAY I'M JUST GOING TO ENJOY THAT YOU'RE BACK.
OKAY?
OKAY.
OKAY.
BUT I'M ALSO GOING TO SIT HERE AND STEAM THAT WE LOST JANET.
OKAY, BUT WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR WHOEVER...
CAN WE TAKE A MOMENT AND JUST FREAK OUT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO US?
WE ALMOST LOST THE PLANET EARTH! WE ALMOST COMPLETELY LOST IT.
BUT WE DIDN'T.
BUT NOT FOR NOTHING. THE BIG BATTLE. NICK FURY? THOR? OSBORN?
NORMAN OSBORN AND VENOM! THOR!
THIS IS WAY PAST MY FREAK-OUT THRESHOLD. THAT WAS CRAZY.
YOU SEEN THE NEWS SINCE?
NO. I'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR TWENTY HOURS.
WHAT'S ON THE NEWS?
IRON FIST
HEY, YOU GUYS HEARD FROM LUKE AND JESSICA?
HEY, DANNY. NO.
NO.
DAMN IT.
YOU GUYS SAW JESSICA JONES FREAKED OUT AND TOOK OFF AFTER THE BIG BATTLE.
AND THEN LUKE AND CAROL FOLLOWED HER.
NO, DIDN'T SEE THEM.
NO.
I DIDN'T SEE EITHER. IT WAS CROWDED.
THIS-- THIS IS BAD.
I SAW THEM.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?

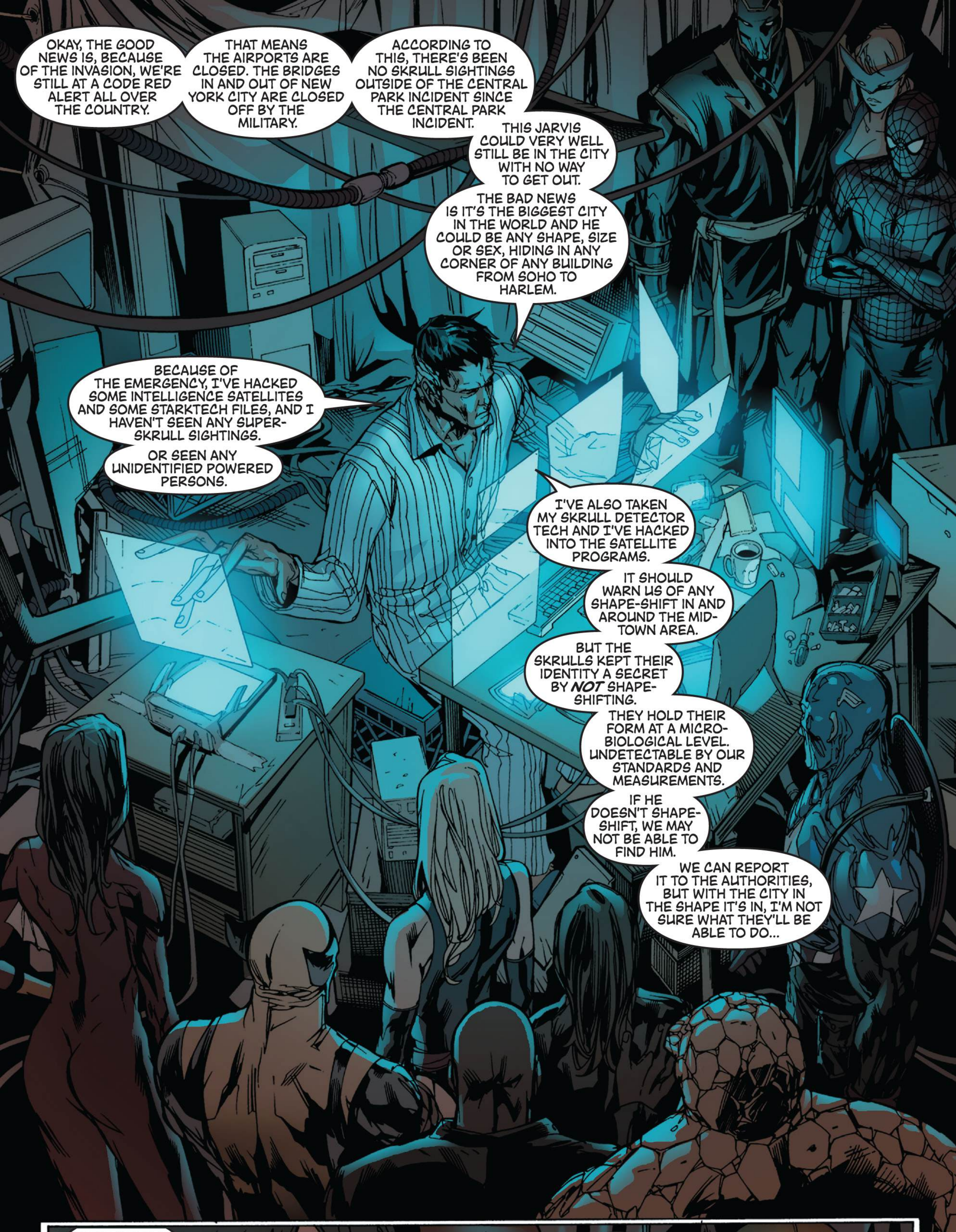

SPIDER-WOMAN
WHO INVITED YOU?
I DID.
WHY?
SHE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
UH... HEY, JESSICA.
WASN'T HER.
SKRULLS TOOK HER OUT. TOOK HER PLACE. JUST LIKE THEY DID TO YOUR WIFE, ONLY WORSE.
SHE GOT IT THE WORST OF ALL OF US.
I'LL GO.
NO. DON'T.
I ONLY CAME BECAUSE I THOUGHT--
BECAUSE--
I DON'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO GO.
HI. I'M BOBBI MORSE. AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. WE MET A BILLION YEARS AGO.
AND I THINK WE WERE BOTH ON THAT SHIP.
I THINK. RIGHT?
S.H.I.E.L.D.'S FOLDED.
SERIOUSLY?
WHY DO YOU THINK WE'RE NOT ALL BEING INTERROGATED TILL WE PASS OUT? THERE'S NO ONE TO INTERROGATE US.
TOLD YOU, TURN ON THE TV.
IF S.H.I.E.L.D IS GONE, WHO'S TAPPING OUR PHONES?
IS FURY BACK IN CHARGE?
DON'T THINK SO. THAT I WOULD HAVE HEARD ABOUT.
IS *THIS* EVERYBODY THEN?
NO. LUKE CAGE AND I'M BETTIN' CAROL DANVERS ARE GOING TO NEED TO BE HERE TOO.
SHE'S WITH TONY STARK.
NOT SO MUCH.
SERIOUSLY? IS THERE A TV IN HERE? INTERWEBS?
WELL, WE CAN WAIT FOR EVERYONE ELSE, BUT LISTEN...

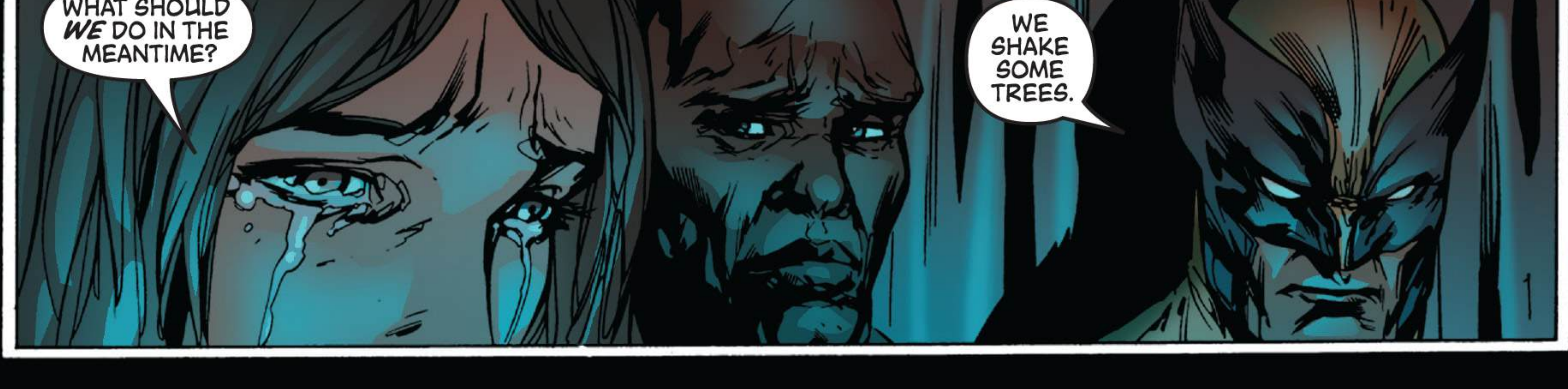
CAPTAIN AMERICA
THE WORLD NEEDS THE AVENGERS. NOW, MAYBE, MORE THAN EVER.
I KNOW CAP PUT THIS TEAM TOGETHER.
HE WOULD HAVE BEEN OVER THE MOON PROUD OF WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY.
YOU WON A WAR.
YOU WON.
YOU'RE CAPTAIN AMERICA'S AVENGERS.
SO THIS IS YOUR HOME AS MUCH AS IT IS MINE.
THIS IS AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS.
THERE'RE PLENTY OF ROOMS, THERE'S A GYM...
YOU CAN ALL LIVE HERE, OR COME AND GO.
BUT THIS IS YOUR HOME NOW...
IF YOU WANT IT.
DO YOU HAVE A TV?
LISTEN, I THOUGHT THAT THIS IS WHAT THIS WAS, SO I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU GUYS IN PERSON....
I JUST CAN'T DO THIS RIGHT NOW. MY COMPANY, MY LIFE. EVERYTHING IS FALLING APART.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS SKRULL @#$% HAS DONE TO THE MARKET.
I NEED TO GO DEAL WITH THAT. BUT YOU GUYS NEED ME, YOU CALL.
THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
YOU GOT NOTHIN' TO APOLOGIZE FOR.
LISTEN, IF LUKE OR JESSICA COME HERE, YOU TELL THEM TO CALL. I'M REALLY--
UH, GUYS...?

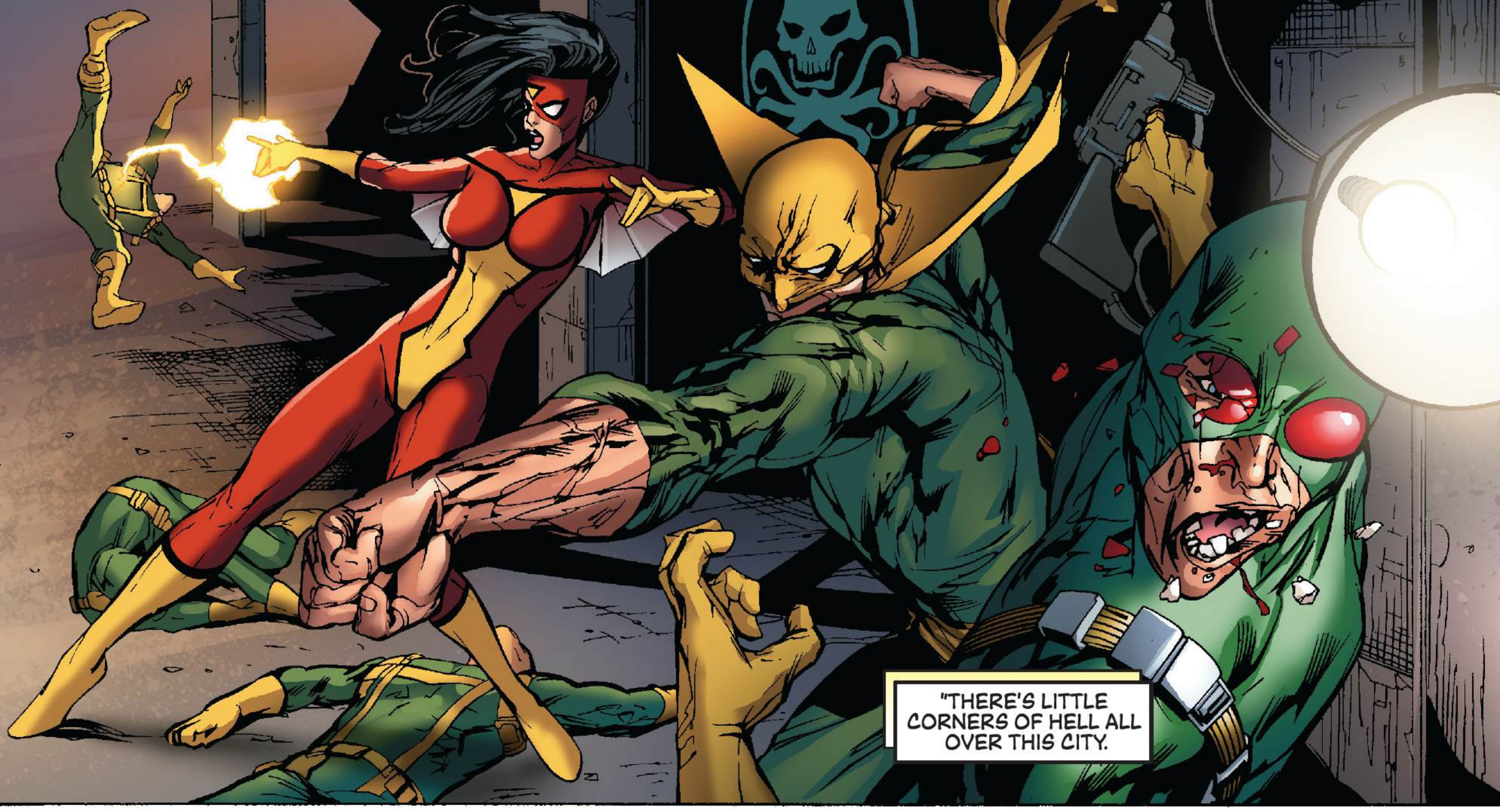
LUKE CAGE
THEY GOT THE BABY!
JESSICA JONES
THEY GOT DANIELLE!
MS. MARVEL
WHO?
THEM! THEM THEM! THE SKRULLS.
JARVIS WAS ONE OF THEM.
NO!
IT'S TRUE.
JARVIS?!
I LEFT THE BABY WITH HIM TO JOIN THE FIGHT.
I DIDN'T KNOW-- I DIDN'T--
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE.
SHE'S REALLY BEATING HERSELF UP OVER THIS.
OF COURSE I AM, CAROL.
BUT SHE'S RIGHT, THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE KNOWN.
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THE ENTIRE TOWER.
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH ALL OF THIS JARVIS' STUFF.
THERE'S NOTHING. NO CLUE TO WHERE HE WENT OR WHY.
WE CHECKED EVERYTHING. EVERYWHERE WE COULD THINK OF.
HE COULD BE ANY SHAPE OR SIZE. HE COULD BE ANYONE.
OUR BABY COULD BE DEAD, ALIVE. WE DON'T KNOW.
WHY WOULD IT TAKE YOUR BABY?
HOSTAGE.
SOMETHING TO BARTER WITH SO IT CAN GET THE HELL OFF THIS PLANET IN ONE PIECE.
BABY'S ALIVE, YA HEAR ME?
IF JARVIS KILLS YOUR KID, HE KNOWS WE'LL KILL HIM. IT'S ONLY GOOD TO HIM ALIVE.
WILL YOU HELP US?!
YOU HAVE TO HELP US!

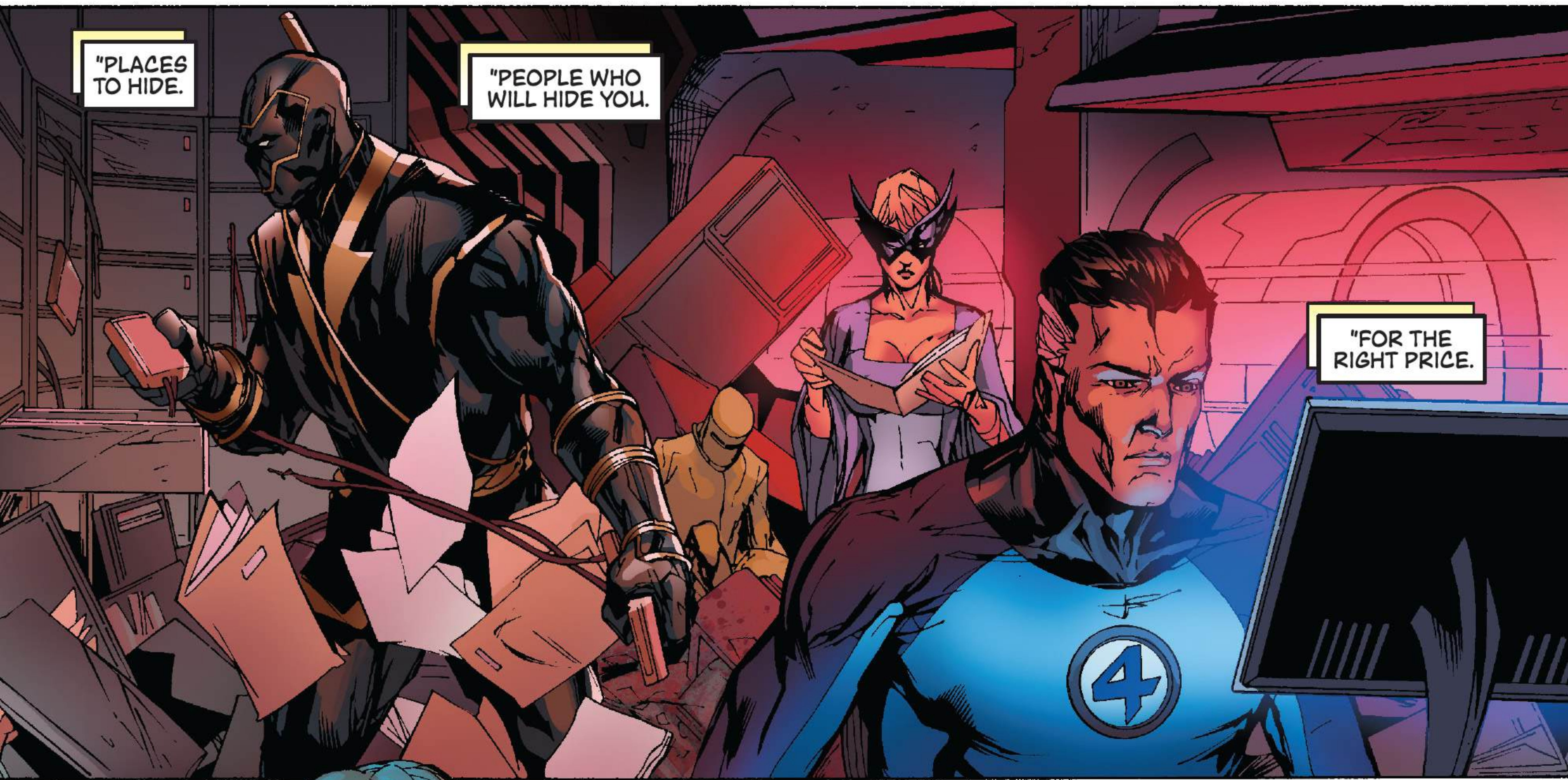
THE AVENGERS

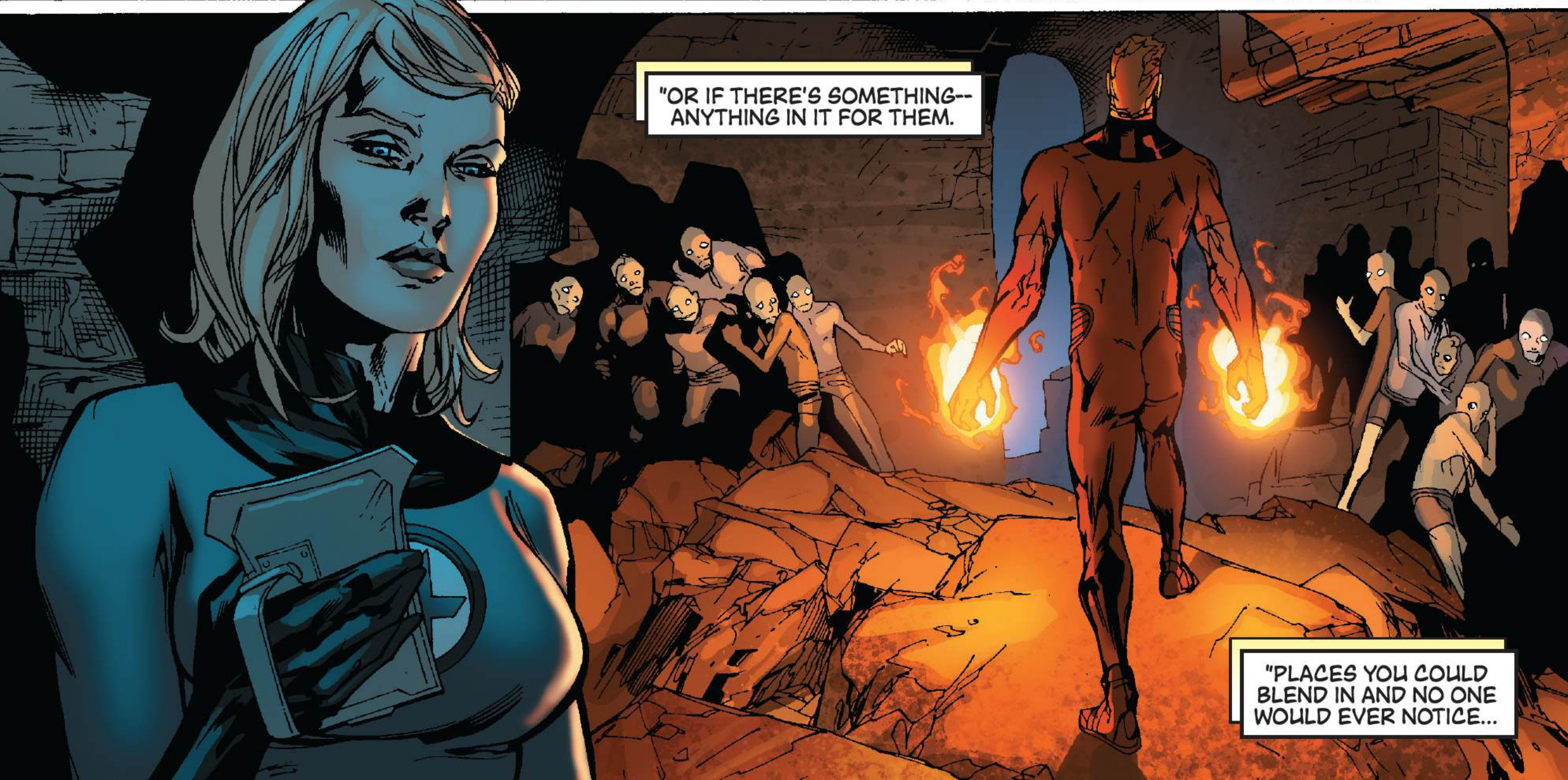
THE BAXTER BUILDING. HOME OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS PLACE?
SKRULLS TOOK OUT THE BUILDING. IT'S OKAY. NOTHING WE CAN'T FIX.
YIKES!
OKAY, I'M UP. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
THE SKRULL DETECTOR.
THE THING YOUR HUSBAND BUILT. WE NEED IT.
OH, REED'S ASLEEP. EVERYONE'S BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH. HE HADN'T SLEPT IN A WEEK.
ONE OF THE SKRULLS HAS OUR BABY.
EVERYONE UP!
WHAT IS IT?
EVERYONE UP! EVERYONE! LET'S GO!


OKAY, THE GOOD NEWS IS, BECAUSE OF THE INVASION, WE'RE STILL AT A CODE RED ALERT ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
THAT MEANS THE AIRPORTS ARE CLOSED. THE BRIDGES IN AND OUT OF NEW YORK CITY ARE CLOSED OFF BY THE MILITARY.
ACCORDING TO THIS, THERE'S BEEN NO SKRULL SIGHTINGS OUTSIDE OF THE CENTRAL PARK INCIDENT SINCE THE CENTRAL PARK INCIDENT.
THIS JARVIS COULD VERY WELL STILL BE IN THE CITY WITH NO WAY TO GET OUT.
THE BAD NEWS IS IT'S THE BIGGEST CITY IN THE WORLD AND HE COULD BE ANY SHAPE, SIZE OR SEX, HIDING IN ANY CORNER OF ANY BUILDING FROM SOHO TO HARLEM.
BECAUSE OF THE EMERGENCY, I'VE HACKED SOME INTELLIGENCE SATELLITES AND SOME STARKTECH FILES, AND I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SUPER-SKRULL SIGHTINGS.
OR SEEN ANY UNIDENTIFIED POWERED PERSONS.
I'VE ALSO TAKEN MY SKRULL DETECTOR TECH AND I'VE HACKED INTO THE SATELLITE PROGRAMS.
IT SHOULD WARN US OF ANY SHAPE-SHIFT IN AND AROUND THE MID-TOWN AREA.
BUT THE SKRULLS KEPT THEIR IDENTITY A SECRET BY ***NOT*** SHAPE-SHIFTING.
THEY HOLD THEIR FORM AT A MICRO-BIOLOGICAL LEVEL. UNDETECTABLE BY OUR STANDARDS AND MEASUREMENTS.
IF HE DOESN'T SHAPE-SHIFT, WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO FIND HIM.
WE CAN REPORT IT TO THE AUTHORITIES, BUT WITH THE CITY IN THE SHAPE IT'S IN, I'M NOT SURE WHAT THEY'LL BE ABLE TO DO...


WHAT SHOULD ***WE*** DO IN THE MEANTIME?
WE SHAKE SOME TREES.


"THERE'S LITTLE CORNERS OF HELL ALL OVER THIS CITY.


"PLACES TO HIDE.
"PEOPLE WHO WILL HIDE YOU.
"FOR THE RIGHT PRICE.


"OR IF THERE'S SOMETHING-- ANYTHING IN IT FOR THEM.
"PLACES YOU COULD BLEND IN AND NO ONE WOULD EVER NOTICE...

"WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE SUBTLE.
"WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY BY THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT.
↑UP
"EVERY SECOND THIS KID IS MISSING IS BAD.
"EVERY SECOND.
"WE HAVE TO THINK DIFFERENTLY. WE HAVE TO THINK LIKE A SKRULL ON THE RUN.
"AND ONCE WE START DOWN THIS ROAD, WE HAVE TO MOVE FAST. TONIGHT.
"OUR JARVIS KNOWS WE'RE LOOKING FOR HIM.
4

"HE KNOWS WE'RE COMING."
WHILE NORMAN OSBORN, DIRECTOR OF THE CONTROVERSIAL THUNDERBOLTS PROGRAM, HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE ONE OF THE BIG WINNERS OF THE NASTY INVASION THAT *ALMOST* TOOK THE PLANET.
RUMORS ARE CIRCULATING THROUGH WASHINGTON, WITH TONY STARK OUSTED FROM THE POSITION, THAT THE ONE-TIME GREEN GOBLIN IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED TO TAKE OVER S.H.I.E.L.D. IF HE HASN'T BEEN OFFERED THE JOB ALREADY.
BUT THE QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S MIND IS, IS S.H.I.E.L.D. STILL EVEN IN EXISTENCE?
DUF
MY FELLOW EX-AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D. ***A TOAST!***
SIT DOWN, DAVE.
MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR LIVES AND PERSONAL FREEDOMS TO THE WORD OF NICK FURY.
ONLY TO FIND THEMSELVES DECOMMISSIONED AND TOLD TO GO TO HELL BY A ***@#$$ IN A SUIT.***
LET US ALL HOLD UP OUR GLASSES IN TOAST TO S.H.I.E.L.D. GOING BYE-BYE.
SHUT UP, DAVE, I CAN'T HEAR THE--
LET'S SAY THANK YOU FOR OUR DISHONORABLE DISCHARGES, BECAUSE THERE IS ***NO WAY IN HELL*** I AM GOING TO TAKE ORDERS FROM THAT BRILLO-PAD-HEADED ***PSYCHOPATH NORMAN OSBORN ANYHOWS!***
I DON'T CARE IF HE ***CURED THE DAMN--***
WHAT?
OH...

YOU. STAND UP.
CRAP.
SON OF A--
I DON'T-- PLEASE, I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE.
I JUST WANT TO LIVE.
I WANT-- I WANT TO BE ONE OF YOU!
LISTEN, GUYS, GUNS DOWN, WE JUST NEED TO TALK TO HER!
WELL, EXCUSE ME, FUGITIVE. WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE!
PLEASE...
I JUST WANT TO BE ONE OF YOU...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS #$%--
NO! NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
THAT SKRULL MIGHT KNOW WHERE MY BABY IS!
EVERYONE GET--

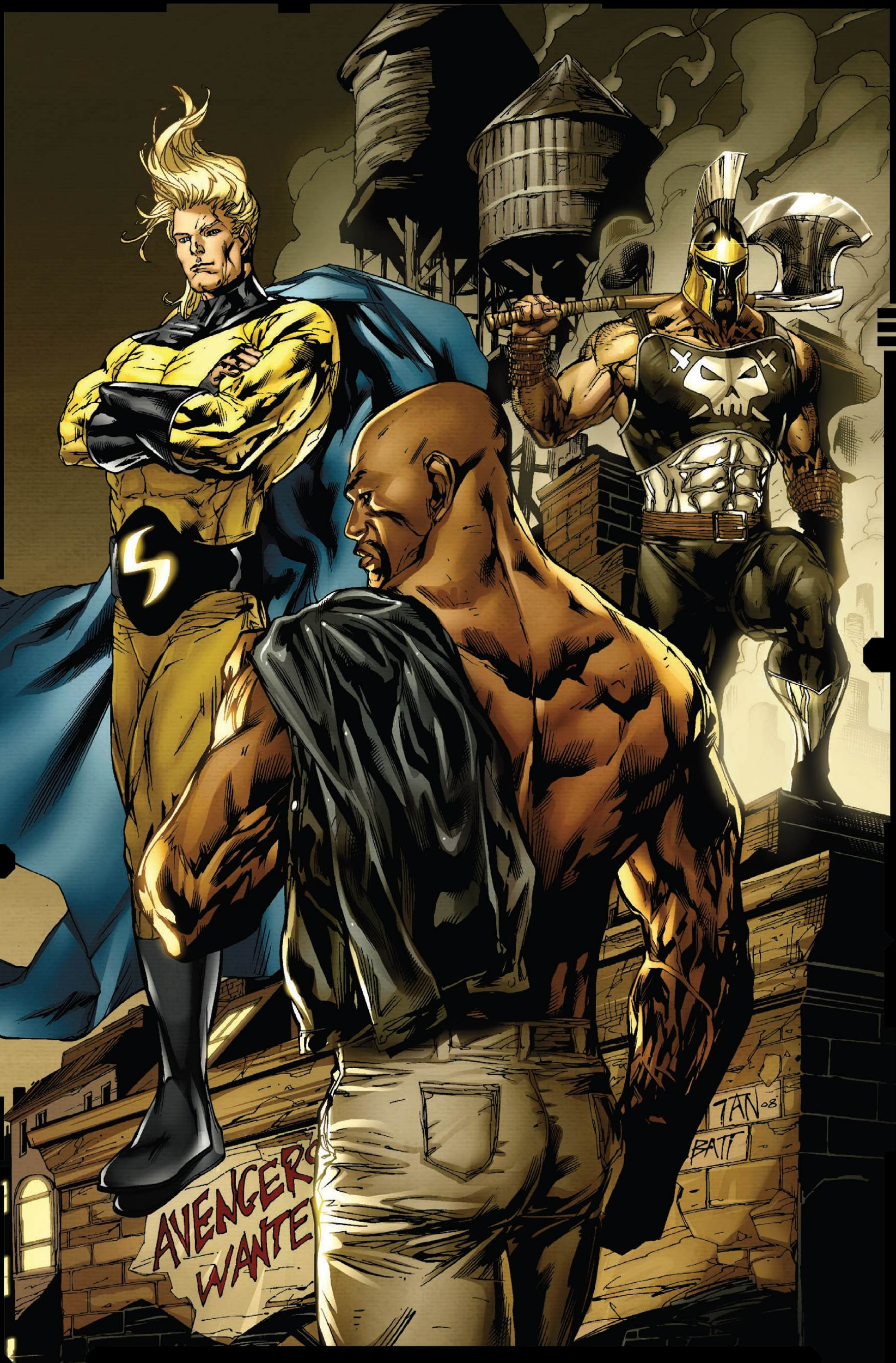
CRASH

PLEASE! I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU. THE SKRULL THAT WAS JARVIS. DO YOU KNOW WHO I MEAN?!
PLEASE!
JARVIS!
YES.
WHERE IS HE? WHERE DID HE GO?
I CAN'T SAY. I CAN'T TELL!
HE HAS MY BABY! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?! MY BABY!
I JUST WANT MY BABY! YOU DO THAT FOR ME AND I'LL MAKE SURE NOTHING HAPPENS TO YOU.
OKAY. OKAY...

PACK
OH, NO...
NO NO...
GO TO HELL, SKRULL.
MY BABY...
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL HER...
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL OUR BABY...

DO YOU HAVE KIDS?
YES.
THEN YOU MIGHT UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL HERE.
OF COURSE.
SO, I AM COMING TO YOU FOR HELP.
I'VE DONE EVERYTHING ELSE I CAN THINK OF, AND THOUGH I'D APPRECIATE IF YOU'D DO THIS FOR ME, ONE HUMAN BEING TO ANOTHER... I UNDERSTAND IF YOU DON'T.
I'LL PAY THIS BILL.
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT. I'LL REPAY YOU ANY WAY YOU WANT.
YOU'D SIGN WITH ME? YOU'D DO THAT?
IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES.
THAT'S ALL I'D NEED. DO WE HAVE A DEAL?
YES, WE DO.

LET'S GO FIND YOUR KID.


AVENGERS WANTE
TAN '08
BATT

NEW AVENGERS #49

THE RAFT, RYKER'S MAXIMUM-MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTALLATION.
GENTLEMEN... TAKE ME TO MY PRISONERS OF WAR.

WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?
DON'T TALK. DON'T SAY ANYTHING. NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY OR DO. THE EMPIRE IS IN OUR HANDS.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME, SKRULL SOLDIER?
MY NAME IS NORMAN OSBORN. I AM *THE* MAN IN CHARGE NOW.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A SKRULL. THE ONE THAT POSED AS THE AVENGERS' MANSERVANT JARVIS.
DO YOU KNOW WHO I'M TALKING ABOUT?
MAC...

GRAAHHH!
CHROPP
AAAIIEE!
CRNCH
AAAIIIIEEGGGKKK!
CRNNNCH
JARVIS.

I-I-I DON'T KNOW.
WE DIDN'T ALL KNOW EACH OTHER.
MAC, STILL HUNGRY?
ALWAYS.
WHERE, OH WHERE, WOULD JARVIS SKRULL BE?
I DIDN'T KNOW HIM.
THIS IS LUKE CAGE.
JARVIS DISAPPEARED DURING YOUR FINAL BATTLE WITH US.
HE HAS TAKEN CAGE'S YOUNG CHILD HOSTAGE AND, CLEARLY, WE WANT THE CHILD BACK.
BUT LET ME MAKE IT VERY CLEAR...
WE HAVE 74 MORE SKRULLS IN CUSTODY.
TELL US SOMETHING OF VALUE OR WE'RE GOING TO MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ONE.
THERE-- THERE IS A MEETING PLACE.
WHERE?!
IN THE CITY?

FOGGER SHIPPING
"FIVE OTHER SKRULLS CONFIRMED THE INTEL SO NOW I BELIEVE IT.
"SEE THE WAREHOUSE? THERE. THIS WAS THE SKRULL WAR ROOM. THIS IS WHERE THE SKRULLS WERE MEETING BEHIND OUR BACKS.
"IT USED TO BE THE *OWL'S* DIGS, IF YOU CARE.
"PERSONALLY I DON'T.
"THIS IS WHERE THE SKRULLS GATHERED AND COMPARED NOTES. PLANNED.
"THIS IS WHERE SOME OF THE SKRULLS WERE SWITCHED OUT OR REMOVED FROM THEIR POST... IF THINGS WEREN'T GOING WELL.
"THIS WAS THEIR SAFEHOUSE.
"FROM HERE, SKRULLS COULD GET ON AND OFF EARTH IF THEY NEEDED TO.
"THE THING OF IT IS, A SKRULL CAN'T MAKE THE JUMP BY HIMSELF.
"A SKRULL NEEDS A SKRULL CONTACT TO ACTIVATE WHATEVER THIS TELEPORTATION DEVICE IS AND SEND THEM UP AND OUT.
"SO THERE'S A CHANCE JARVIS HASN'T LEFT YET.
"THERE'S A *CHANCE* HE KEEPS COMING BACK, HOPING TO MEET UP WITH ANOTHER SKRULL.
"THERE'S A CHANCE.
"BUT THE PROBLEM IS: WHAT POWERS OR ABILITIES DOES JARVIS HAVE?
"THE SKRULL WARRIORS HAD ANY COMBINATION.
"MAYBE HE HAS SOME POWER, MAYBE HE HAS NONE."

"WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS KEEP A ROUND-THE-CLOCK SURVEILLANCE ON THE ENTIRE LOCATION. AND ONCE WE--
"HOLD ON--
"SOMEONE'S APPROACHING. DO WE HAVE A VISUAL?"
FOGGER SHIPPING

GIVE ME THE BABY.
SHE'S OKAY.
SHE'S SLEEPING.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, I DON'T...WHY'D YOU EVEN TAKE HER?
I DIDN'T.
YOUR WIFE *GAVE* HER TO ME.
GIVE ME MY BABY.
YOU'LL KILL ME.
I WILL IF YOU DON'T, I PROMISE YOU.
BUT I PROMISE ON MY HONOR, I WON'T IF YOU MAKE THIS RIGHT.
I'LL TAKE MY BABY AND I'LL WALK OUT OF HERE.
YOU CAN BEAM YOUR @#$ UP TO THE ENTERPRISE OR WHATEVER THE @#$% YOU'RE GOING TO DO.
JUST GIVE ME THE BABY.

YOU--YOU DIDN'T COME ALONE.
AIN'T NO ONE ELSE HERE.
YOU TELL OSBORN TO RELEASE THE PRISONERS.
HE--HE RELEASES THEM ALL AND *THEN* YOU GET THE BABY!
WE'LL LEAVE. ALL OF US.
THIS AIN'T A SWAP MEET.
GIVE ME MY BABY.
MY PEOPLE ARE ***DESTROYED!***
NOTHIN' TO DO WITH ME. NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT LITTLE BABY.
I DON'T CARE... ABOUT ANY OF IT. JUST WANT MY KID.

SHE'S OKAY?
PACK
I'M NOT A MONSTER, I DID WHAT ANY--

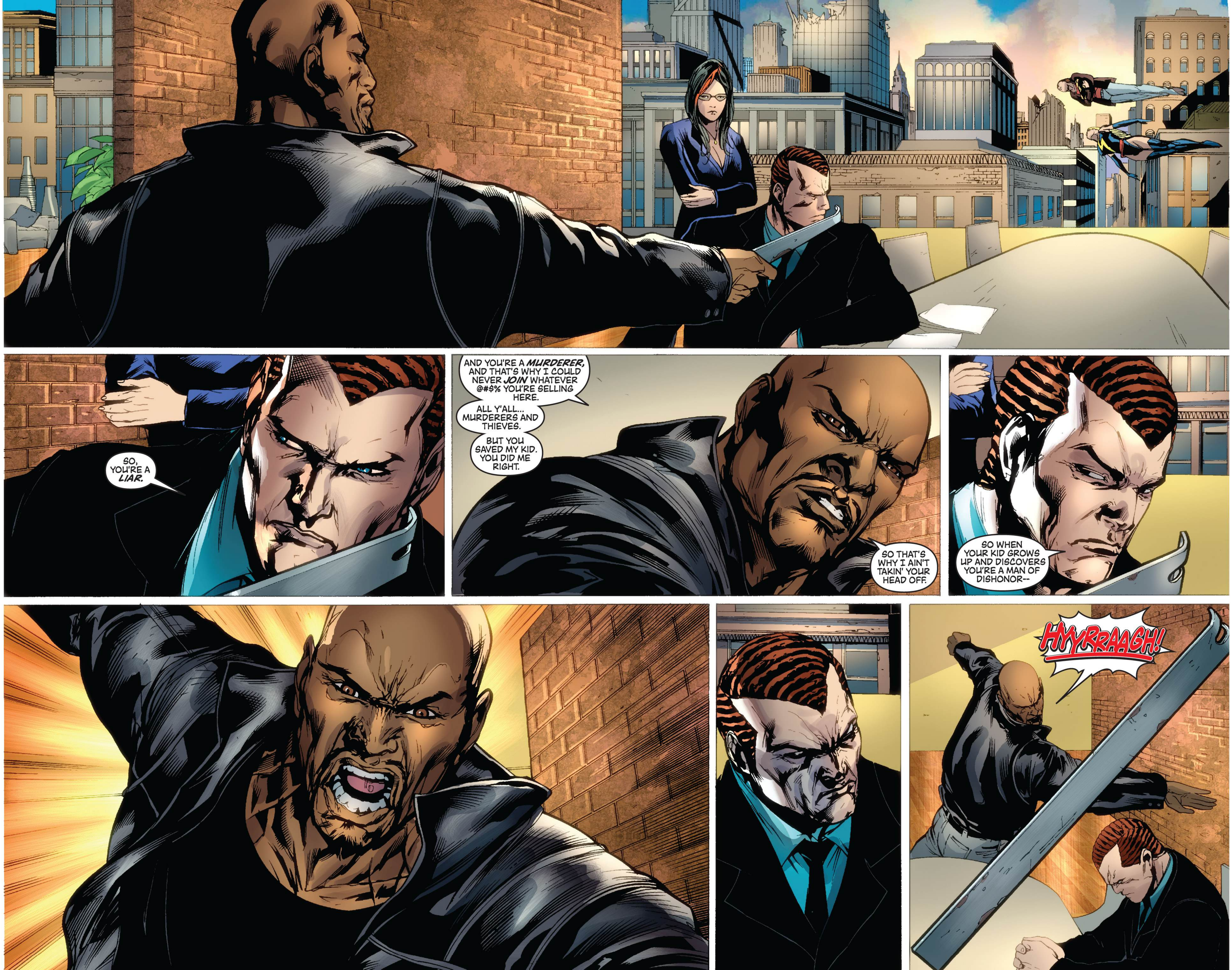
BULLSEYE.

AVENGERS TOWER, NEXT MORNING.
JESSICA JONES... HERE'S YOUR BABY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
AND--AND SHE'S OKAY?
SHE'S ALRIGHT?
SHE'S OKAY.
THESE ARE THE NOTES FROM THE S.H.I.E.L.D. DOCTOR WHO LOOKED HER OVER LAST NIGHT.
SHE'S HEALTHY. NO PROBLEMS. PROBABLY NEEDS A BATH.
OKAY.
SHE NEEDS TO BE CHANGED. CAN WE--ARE WE ALLOWED TO--?
YOU'RE NOT BEING HELD PRISONER.
YOUR APARTMENT HERE IS STILL YOUR APARTMENT HERE.
UM, I'M, LISTEN, OSBORN, I'M NOT A SUPER HERO. I DON'T WANT TO BE ONE.
OKAY? I DON'T.
I JUST WANT TO RAISE MY KID.
MY DEAL WAS WITH YOUR HUSBAND.
OKAY.
OKAY?
OKAY.

YOU DID IT.
YOU DID IT. YOU DID IT. YOU DID IT.
SO WE'RE CLEAR...
THIS GETS ME OUT OF ANY NAGGY BULL WIFE STUFF.
FOR *LIFE.*
I LEAVE A LIGHT ON OR THE TOILET SEAT UP... YOU JUST HANDLE IT.
YOU WISH.
THIS--THIS WAS A MAJOR RISK.
STILL IS.
YOU SURE THIS IS THE ROAD YOU WANT TO GO DOWN?
WE HAVE TO-- WE HAVE TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR HER.
IT'S ALL ABOUT HER. EVERYTHING WE DO FROM NOW ON. IT'S *ALL* ABOUT HER. I KNOW WE KNEW THAT IN THEORY, BUT THIS IS IT.
THIS IS HOW IT *HAS* TO BE.
I THOUGHT SHE WAS DEAD.
ME TOO.
I HAVE NEVER BEEN SO RELIEVED ABOUT ANYTHING EVER IN MY WHOLE ENTIRE LIFE.
HOW ON GOD'S EARTH WOULD WE BE ABLE TO GO ON IF WE DIDN'T GET HER BACK?
THAT'S ALL I'VE BEEN THINKING.
YEAH...
MAKE THE CALL.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
GOTTA MAKE MY INTENTIONS CLEAR.

TELL HIM NO.
AND TELL HIM TO STOP BOTHERING ME. AND TELL *HIM* WE'RE IN A TIME OF CRISIS AND HE SHOULD DO WHAT'S BEST FOR THE COUNTRY.
AND I DON'T KNOW WHO *THIS* IS.
SAID HE USED TO BE AN AVENGER AND WANTS TO MEET WITH YOU.
D-MAN.
I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS.
DON'T BOTHER ME WITH STUFF LIKE THIS.
YOUR JOB IS TO KEEP STUFF LIKE *THIS* AWAY FROM ME.
WHATCHA GOT THERE, CAGE?
CHECK THIS @#$% OUT. THIS--THIS IS SOMETHING I LEFT HERE BACK WHEN I LIVED HERE.
I TOOK THIS OFF OF THE WRECKER. THIS IS HIS CROWBAR.
HE BEAT THE @#$% OUT OF THOR WITH THIS. YOU SHOULD FEEL WHAT'S GOIN' ON WITH THIS THING.
NO @#$%, IT GOT POWERS OR SOMETHING?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
YOU--

CRACK
SMASK
LORD!
WELL...
CRASH
BOOM


SO, YOU'RE A *LIAR.*
AND YOU'RE A *MURDERER,* AND THAT'S WHY I COULD NEVER *JOIN* WHATEVER @#$% YOU'RE SELLING HERE.
ALL Y'ALL... MURDERERS AND THIEVES.
BUT YOU SAVED MY KID. YOU DID ME RIGHT.
SO THAT'S WHY I AIN'T TAKIN' YOUR HEAD OFF.
SO WHEN YOUR KID GROWS UP AND DISCOVERS YOU'RE A MAN OF DISHONOR--
HYYRRAAGH!

KSSHH
CROOOOOM
SORRY.
GUESS WHO JUST MADE THE LIST.

AVENGERS HIDEOUT, THE BRONX
HOW ABOUT THAT?
RIGHT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. YOU GOT HER BACK. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
I'VE NEVER BEEN THIS CLOSE TO A BABY BEFORE.
GOTTA SEND REED RICHARDS A THANK YOU NOTE OR SOMETHING.
THEY DON'T SMELL THAT BAD AT ALL.
THANK YOU FOR LETTING US STAY HERE.
NO PROBLEM.
I, UH, ACTUALLY DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A BABY, BUT OKAY.
SURE.
WHY *DIDN'T* YOU TAKE OSBORN'S HEAD OFF?
BECAUSE I'M NOT GOING DOWN THAT ROAD.
I WOULD HAVE.
I ACTUALLY DON'T THINK YOU WOULD HAVE.
THIS IS FATHER STUFF. IT'S A DIFFERENT THING.
MAYBE.
SON OF A--
THAT-- THAT SON OF A--
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WATCHING US ALL OVER THE WORLD.

DEADLINENEWS
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE.... LIVE FROM AVENGER'S TOWER... N YORK CIT
AS WE START OUR HEALING... AS WE START TO UNDERSTAND HOW WE AS A SPECIES HAVE YET AGAIN TRIUMPHED OVER THOSE WHO WOULD TRY TO TAKE AWAY WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS...
IT IS MY HONOR TO INTRODUCE TO YOU... YOUR PROTECTORS... YOUR WARRIORS...
YOUR...
AVENGERS!
I AM THE IRON PATRIOT.
I WILL LEAD THESE NEW AVENGERS INTO BATTLE AGAINST ANYONE WHO WOULD THREATEN OUR WAY OF LIFE.
MY NAME IS NORMAN OSBORN AND I APPROVE THESE AVENGERS!
WAIT, WHAT?

WELL, THAT'S JUST OBNOXIOUS.
OKAY, SO WE ALL JUST SAW THAT, RIGHT? I'M NOT NUTS.
AND TODAY'S OUR LUCKY DAMN DAY.
BECAUSE?
BECAUSE HE FINALLY GAVE US A REASON TO GO OVER THERE ***AND MOP THE FLOOR WITH HIS BRILLO PAD HEAD!***
WAIT... WHAT?
BECAUSE HE DRESSED UP LIKE YOU?
NO. ***YES!***
HISTORICALLY. LISTEN TO ME...
EVERY TIME THE WORLD HAS GONE TO HELL SOMEONE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF IT.
STOCK MARKET CRASHES AND SOME DIRTBAG PARACHUTES OUT WITH A BILLION DOLLARS.
COUNTRY GOES TO WAR, THE MOB HAS A FIELD DAY...
NOW THIS? ***THIS?***
AND DRESSED IN ***OUR*** UNIFORMS?
REPRESENTING SOMETHING WE'VE DEDICATED OUR LIVES TO?
TWISTING IT INTO SOMETHING THEY CAN ***SELL?***
NO!
NO!
WE DON'T WAIT FOR THEM TO SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS...
WE ***KNOW*** THEIR TRUE COLORS.
WE GO THERE AND WE ***STOP*** THIS BEFORE IT ALL GOES TO HELL AGAIN.
WE GO THERE AND WE TAKE BACK THE AVENGERS FROM THE HANDS OF THE GREEN GOBLIN MANIAC!
WE'RE THE AVENGERS.
WE TAKE IT BACK.

MIGHTY AVENGERS #20

THE ARCTIC CIRCLE, YEARS AGO.
WHAT DID IRON MAN SAY, HANK?
SAID IT'S REALLY HIM.
AND HE'S *ALIVE?*
IT'S CAPTAIN AMERICA AND HE IS ALIVE.

WE'RE GOING TO MEET *THE* CAPTAIN AMERICA?
WE'RE GOING TO *TALK* TO HIM?
IF HE DOESN'T HAVE BRAIN DAMAGE OR--
CAPTAIN AMERICA IS ALIVE.
WOW!!
IS HE GOING TO JOIN US? IS HE GOING TO BE AN AVENGER?
WOULDN'T *THAT* BE SOMETHING.
FIGHTING ALONGSIDE *THE* CAPTAIN AMERICA.
LAST SIGHTING OF HIM WAS 1945.
WOW.
DECADES. HE LOST *DECADES* IN THE ICE.
IMAGINE WAKING UP TO A BRAVE NEW WORLD.
WAIT TILL HE SEES TV.
POP TARTS.
AND TIN FOIL.
SPIDER-MAN.
McDONALD'S.
THE BEATLES.
YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M GOING TO REDESIGN HIS COSTUME FOR HIM.
HIS COSTUME IS FINE.
I WONDER IF HE HAD A GIRLFRIEND OR A WIFE BACK THEN.
I WONDER IF SHE'S STILL ALIVE.
CAN YOU IMAGINE?
YOU WAKE UP AND THE ENTIRE WORLD IS DIFFERENT.
YOUR FRIENDS ARE OLDER. SOME HAVE DIED.
YEAH, BUT THERE'S TV NOW.
I'M SERIOUS, CAN YOU IMAGINE?

HEY.
WHAT?
THIS LIFE--ALL THIS.
THANK YOU.
WHAT DID I DO?
HEY, I'M SAYING...THANK YOU.

I LOVE YOU, JANET.
SAY IT MORE OFTEN.
I MEAN TO.
I KNOW.
I THINK IT A LOT.
IF YOU GET FROZEN IN A BLOCK OF ICE, I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
YEAH, SURE.

I WOULD TOO.
HANK?
NOW.
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT?
I ASKED, SIR, IF YOUR LATE WIFE HAD ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR HER FUNERAL OR IF YOU HAD ANYTHING THAT YOU WANTED ADDED TO THE SERVICE.
UH...NO.
WILL YOU BE SPEAKING AT THE SERVICE?
AM I SUPPOSED TO?
THAT IS COMPLETELY UP TO YOU, SIR.
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO OR SAY ANYTHING.
YES, SIR. CAPTAIN DANVERS AND I WILL BE IN CONSTANT CONTACT.
EVERYTHING WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF.
BUT THERE'S NO BODY.

I KNOW, SIR.
SO IT'S-- THERE'S JUST GOING TO BE A BOX.
IT'S CUSTOMARY.
CAN I GO? I'D-I THINK I'D LIKE TO LEAVE.
YOU WANT ME TO FLY YOU OUT OF HERE?
NO, SIMON, NO.
I'M NOT IN A FLYING MOOD.
THERE'S A CAR WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE.

PYM!
PYM!
HANK PYM!!
DOCTOR?
IS SHE REALLY DEAD?
WHEN DID YOU KNOW?
--WHEN WERE YA SWITCHED OUT?
--COMMENT ON THE REGISTRATION ACT?
HAVE YOU TALKED TO TONY ST
PYM!
HANK PYM!!
PYM!
PYM!
DOCTOR?
--BLACK GOLIATH!!
TMZ
ARIRANG KOREA
PYM!
--CLONE OF THOR!!
HANK PYM!!
DOCTOR?
JACK TV
NY POST
PYM!
PYM!
HANK PYM!!
DOCTOR?
REPORTS THAT YOU ARE A SKRULL--?
HEY!! CUT IT OUT!! I MEAN IT!!
NBC
SHOW SOME RESPECT!

TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENING. WHY ARE THEY ACTING LIKE THAT?
THE SKRULL WHO REPLACED YOU.
HE WAS, LIKE, THEIR FACE.
THEY HAD YOU ON TV, YOUR FACE, ALL OVER THE WORLD. ANNOUNCING THE SKRULLS' INTENTIONS.
MOST PEOPLE, WHEN THEY SEE YOU, THEY SEE A SKRULL.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
SORRY. IT WAS HARD TO FIND THE RIGHT TIME TO TELL YOU... SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT DAY IT IS...WHAT YEAR...
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE I WAS...SWITCHED OUT--
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON.
OH, HEY, WE CAN DO THAT LATER.
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME EVERYTHING.

NO MORE MUTANTS.

SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT PASSES

CAPTAIN AMERICA DEAD
CI
TR
FREE

EMBRACE CHANGE.

I TRIED TO--
IF YOU GET FROZEN IN A BLOCK OF ICE, I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT WANTED TO MOVE HERE!!!
OH GOD!!

I STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY... A WORLD IN MOURNING.
A WORLD IN SHOCK.
WE ARE ALL UNITED NOT ONLY IN OUR DESIRE TO PAY OUR RESPECTS TO A HERO BUT ALSO IN OUR NEED TO DO SO.
bendis cafe
JANET VAN DYNE WAS THE VERY ESSENCE OF HEROISM, OF DUTY, OF STYLE, OF BEAUTY.
nk U
us
we will never forget
Good Bye JANET
WE WILL MISS YOU WASP
WE LOVE
MISS WASP
SHE CHOSE TO SERVE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL OF HUMANITY.
ALL OVER THE WORLD, SHE WAS A SYMBOL OF SELFLESS HUMANITY.
TODAY IS OUR CHANCE TO SAY THANK YOU FOR THE WAY SHE PROTECTED OUR LIVES...
EVEN THOUGH GOD GRANTED HER BUT HALF A LIFE.
WE WILL ALWAYS AND FOREVER FEEL CHEATED THAT YOU WERE TAKEN FROM US SO YOUNG...
AND YET, WE MUST LEARN TO BE GRATEFUL THAT YOU CAME ALONG AT ALL.
ONLY NOW THAT YOU ARE GONE DO WE TRULY APPRECIATE WHAT AND WHO YOU WERE...
WE NOW MUST COME TO REALIZE WHAT LIFE WITHOUT A HERO, AN ICON, SUCH AS YOURSELF WILL BE LIKE.

IT'S CUSTOMARY AT THIS TIME TO ALLOW ANYONE WHO WANTS TO SHARE THEIR WORDS AND FEELINGS ABOUT THE DECEASED TO STEP FORWARD AND DO SO...
DOES *ANYONE* HAVE ANYTHING TO SHARE?
OH NO...

I KEEP ASKING MYSELF, WHAT WOULD JANET THINK OF ALL THIS?
I THINK SHE WOULD ASK...
HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?
SO I'LL ASK FOR HER... HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?

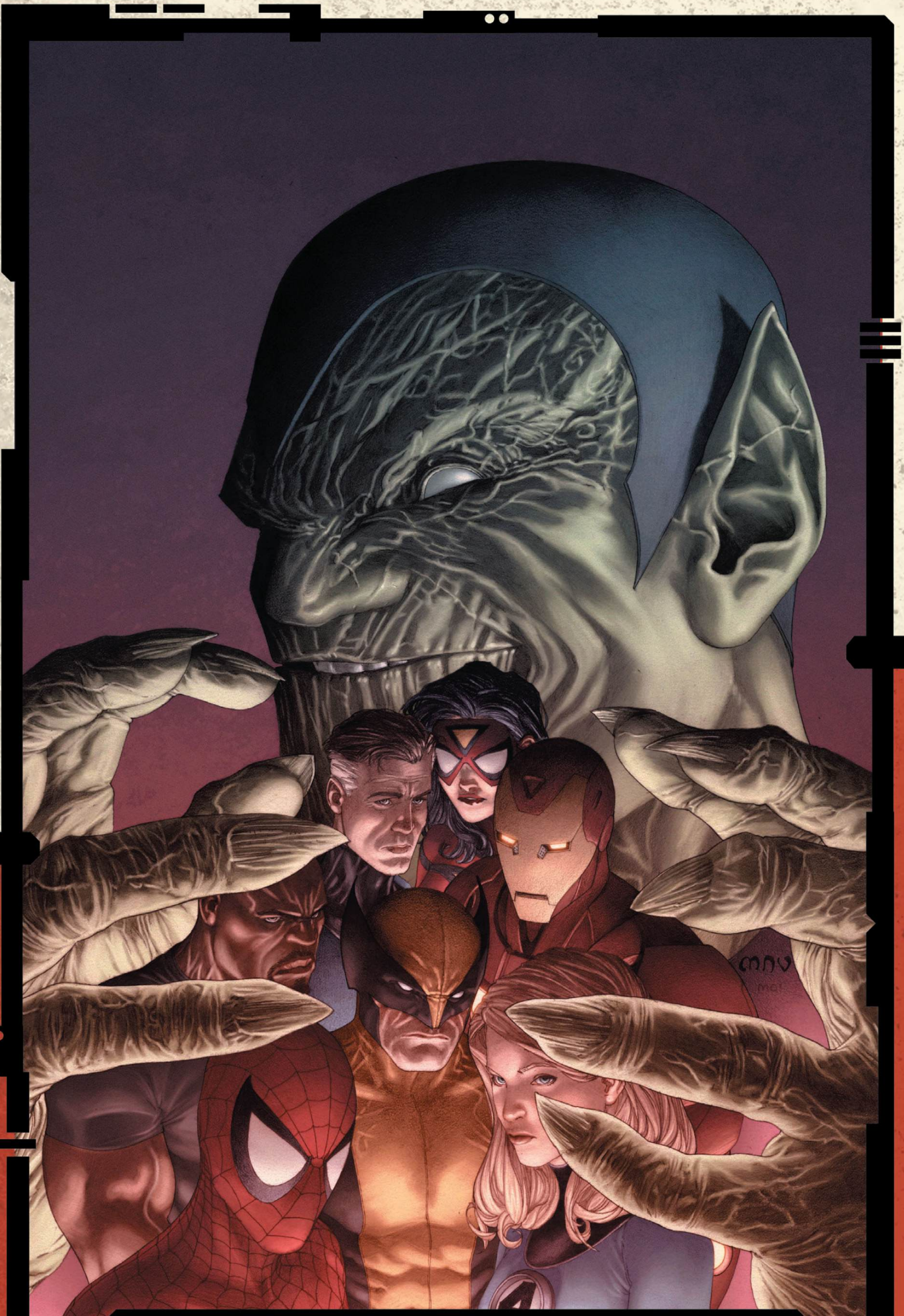
I'M ASKING YOU, TONY!
HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?
HOW COULD YOU LET THIS HAPPEN?
HOW?
TELL ME! I REALLY WANT TO KNOW!
YOU KILLED CAPTAIN AMERICA, YOU KILLED JANET!
BUT THERE YOU ARE!
WHO'S NEXT, TONY?
WHO'S--

AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE ONCE-GREAT AVENGERS, I SAY TO THEE, I HAVE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE JANET VAN DYNE IN MANY A BATTLE.
BATTLES THAT HAVE SAVED THIS WORLD FROM DESTRUCTION.
IT WAS MY HONOR TO CALL HER TEAMMATE AND FRIEND.
THE HALLS OF ASGARD SHARE YOUR GRIEF TODAY, AND THEY ALSO SING PRAISE AND REJOICE THAT SUCH A WARRIOR EVER WALKED THIS EARTH.
THE GATES OF VALHALLA ARE RICHER TODAY.
COME, DOCTOR, WE SHALL MOURN TOGETHER IN PRIVATE.

PRES
WELL THAT WASN'T *TOO* AWKWARD.
GIVE THE MAN A BREAK, BARTON.
I JUST WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE.
LOOK AT THAT...
NORMAN OSBORN? THIS IS TOO MUCH.
NOT HERE.
HEY THERE, AREN'T YOU THE GREEN GOBLIN?
AND YOU ARE?
CLINT BARTON. AVENGER.
NOT UNLESS YOU'RE REGISTERED WITH MY INITIATIVE.
WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE?
RESPECT.
YOU SHOULD TRY SOME.
BUT, HEY, AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE... YOU HAVE 24 HOURS TO REGISTER, OR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.
REALLY?

THANK
WASP WE LOVE YOU
WELL, GOOD THING WE'RE IN A CHURCH...OR I'D TELL YOU TO GO @#$% YOURSELF.
NOT HERE!
LOVELY.
MIS YO
NEVER FORGET
MIS YO
GOOD WAS WE LO
HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN.

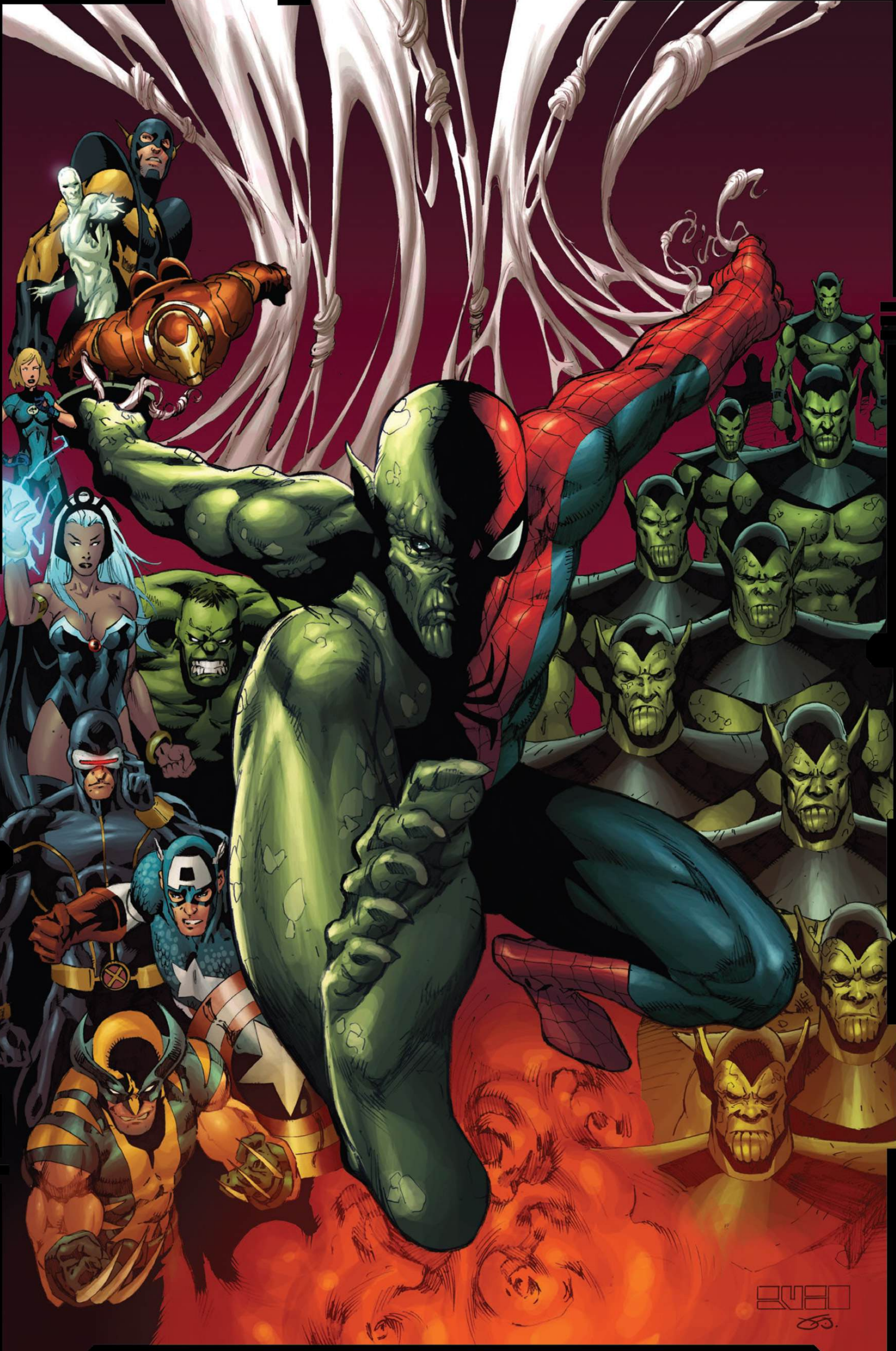
NEW YORK CITY, AVENGERS TOWER.



SECRET INVASION #1 VARIANT

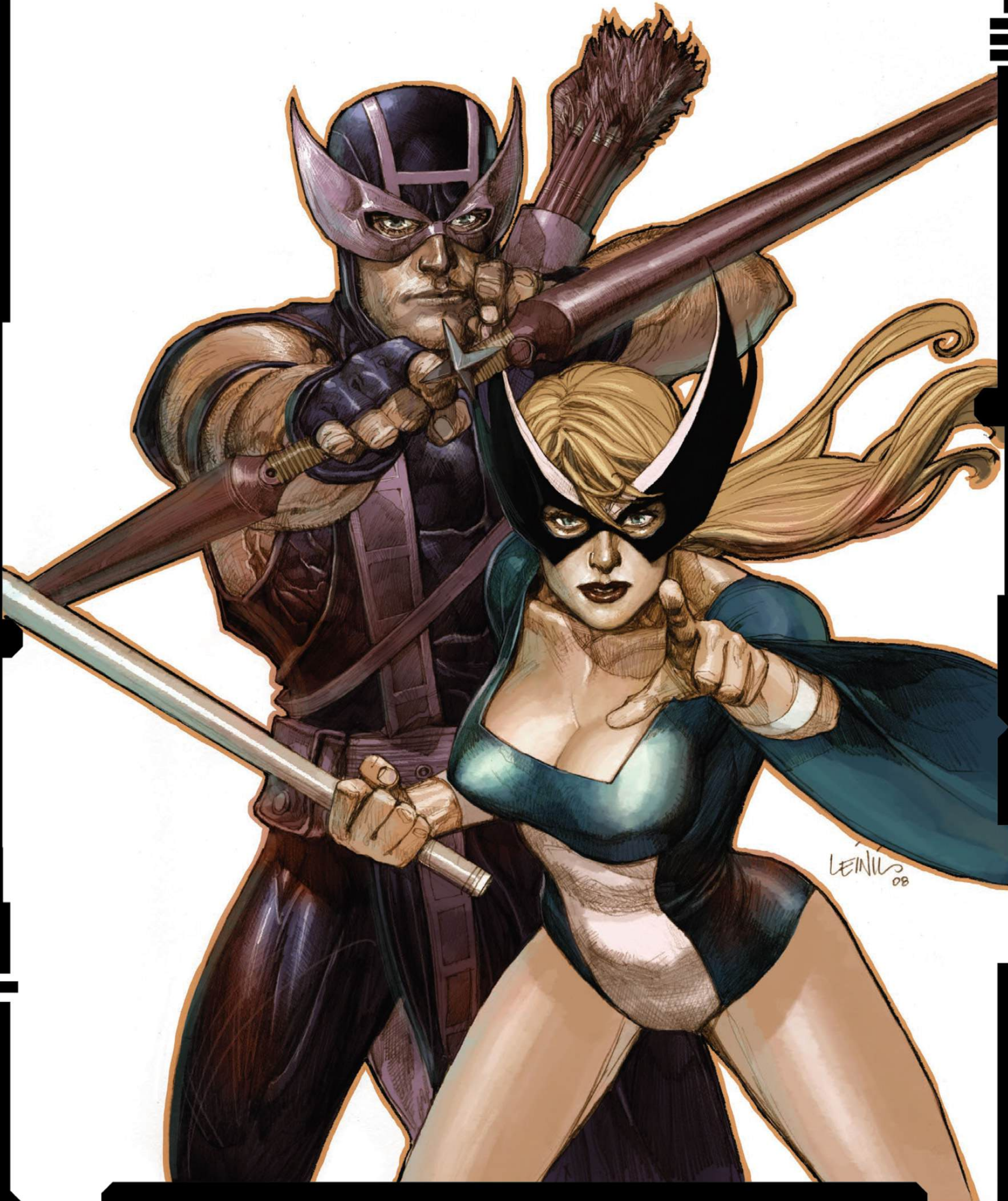
BY **STEVE McNIVEN** & **MORRY HOLLOWELL**

SECRET INVASION #1 VARIANT BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU**

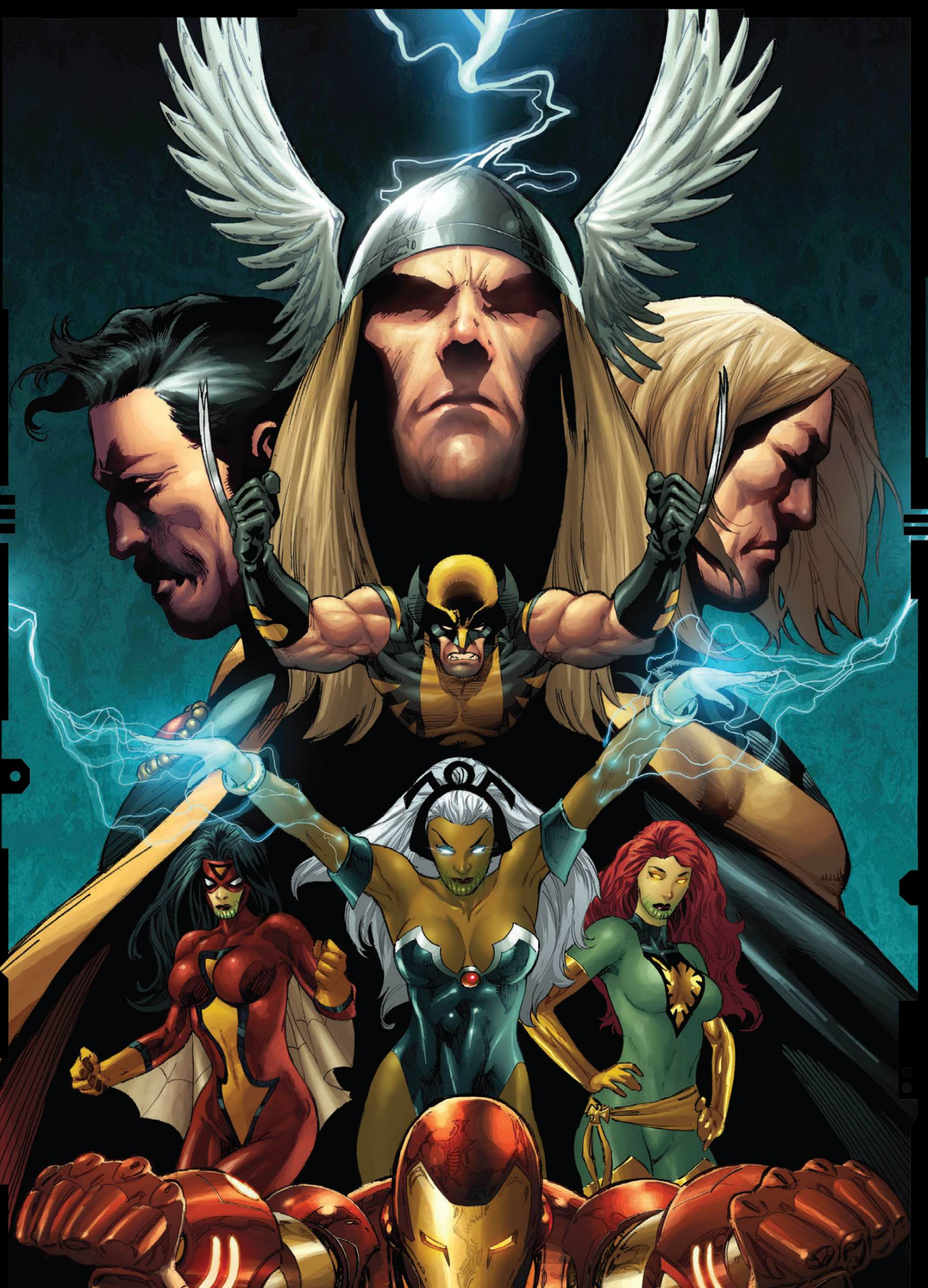


SECRET INVASION #1 DYNAMIC FORCES VARIANT
BY **MEL RUBI** & **FRANK MARTIN JR.**

SECRET INVASION #2 VARIANT
BY **STEVE McNIVEN** & **MORRY HOLLOWELL**



SECRET INVASION #2 VARIANT BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU**



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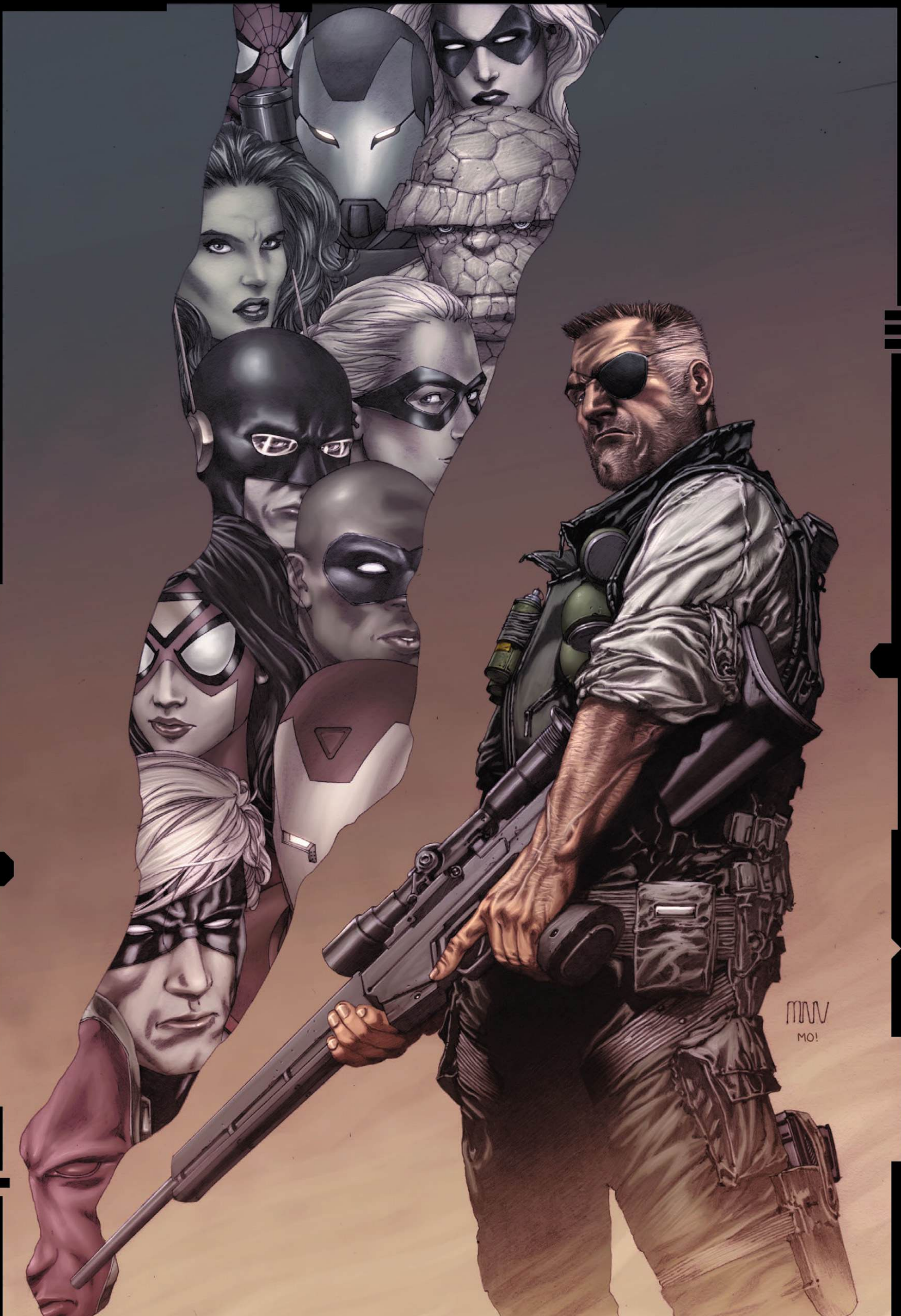
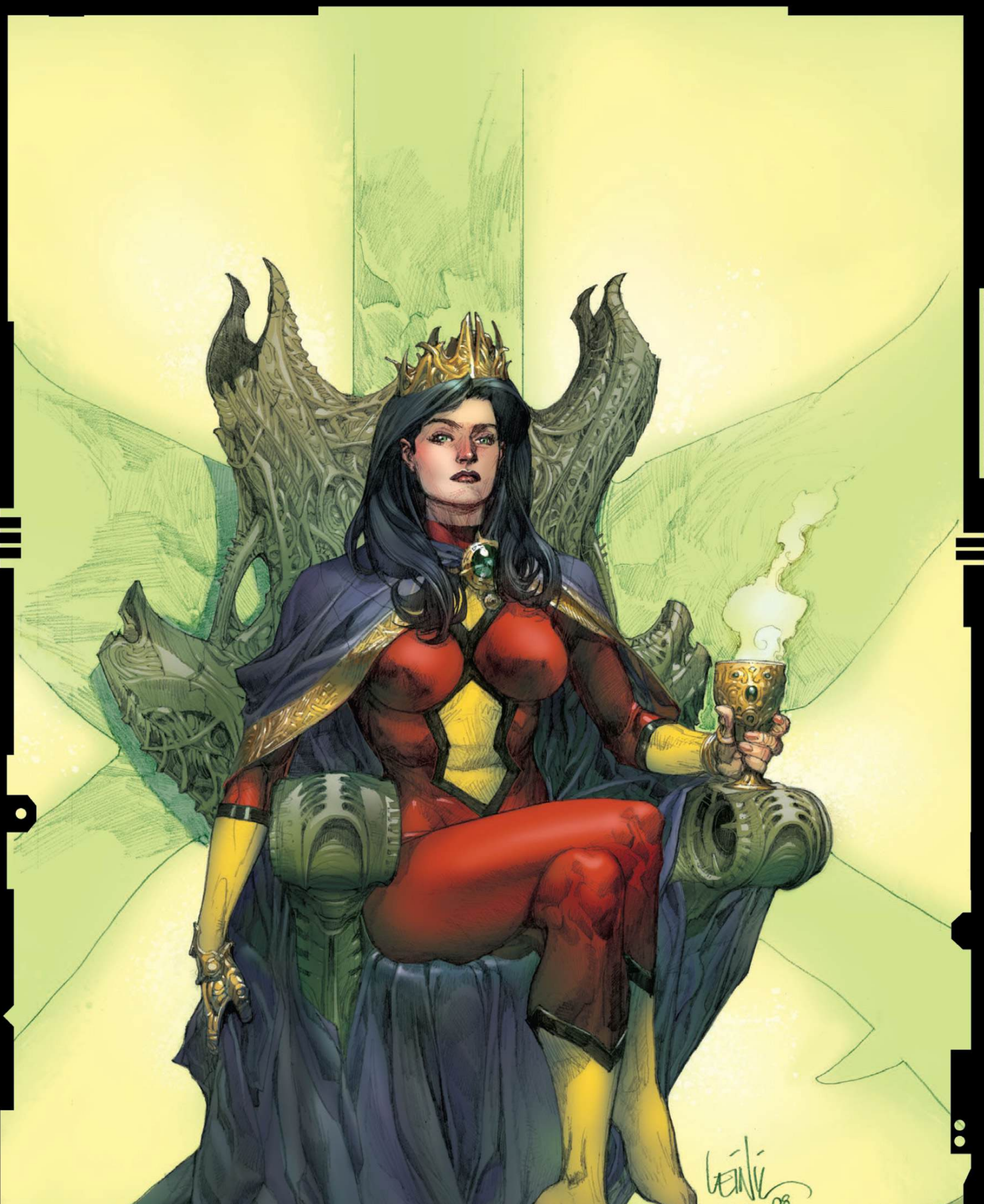
BY **MEL RUBI** & **FRANK MARTIN JR.**

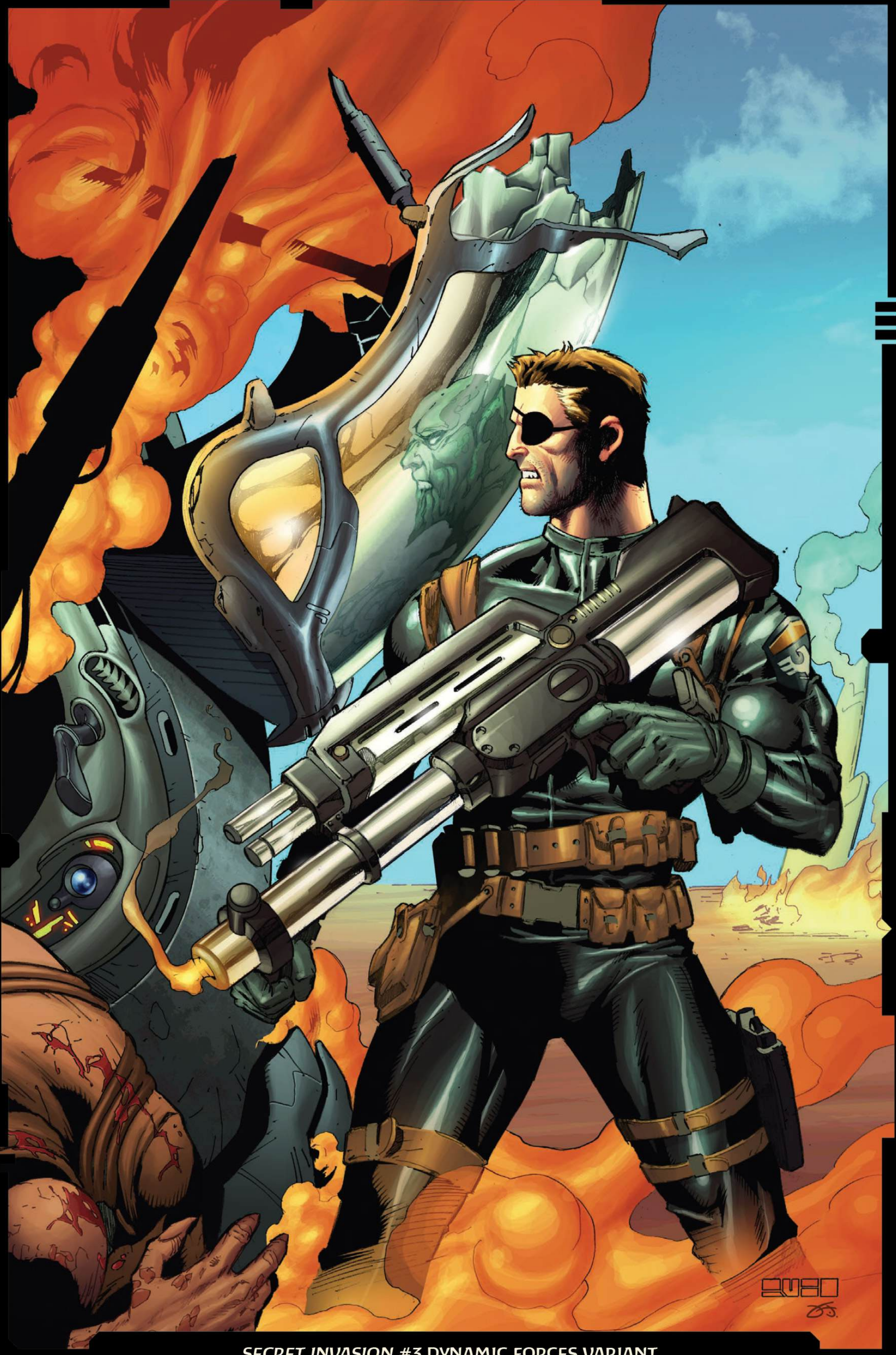


SECRET INVASION #3 VARIANT
BY **STEVE McNIVEN** & **MORRY HOLLOWELL**

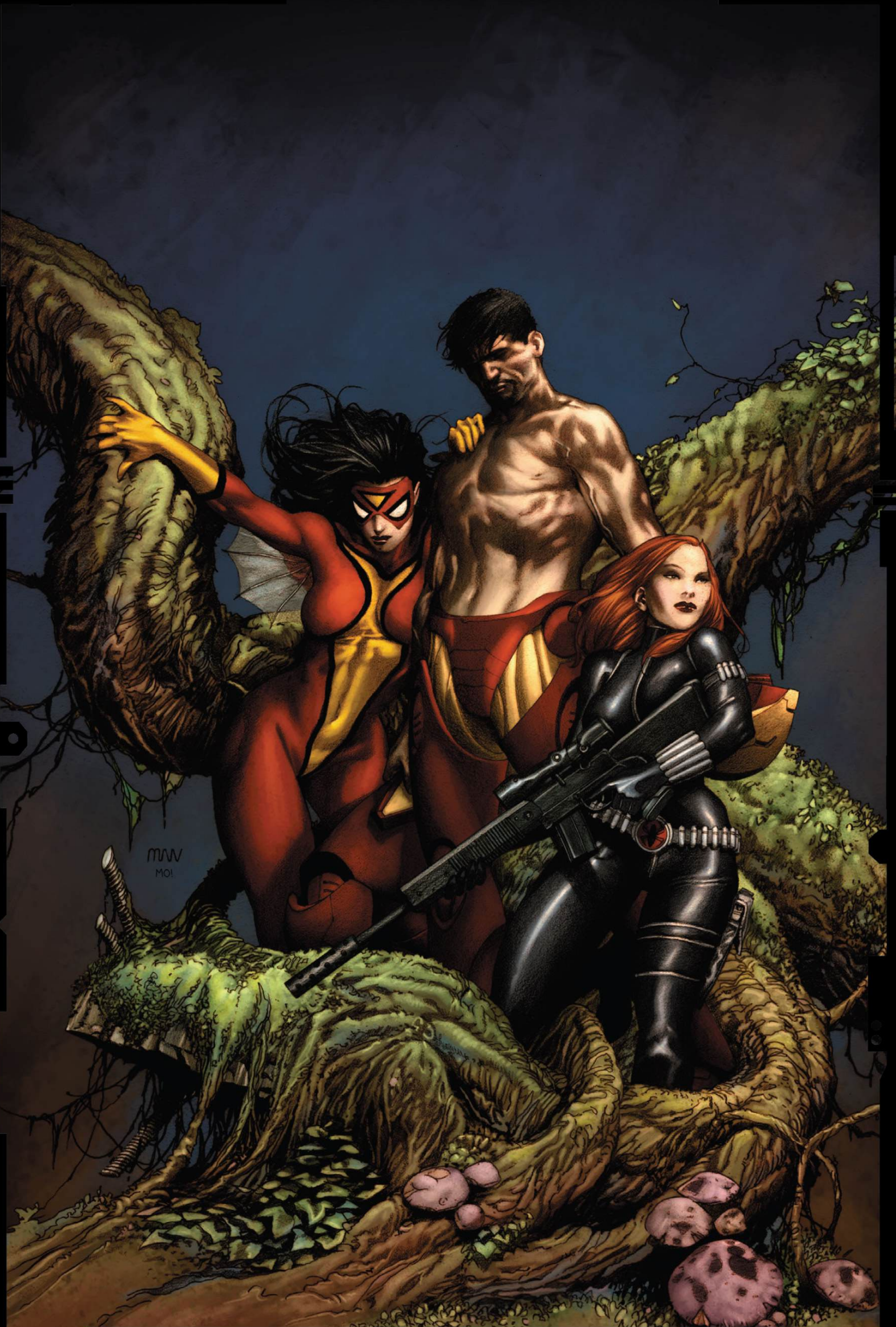


SECRET INVASION #3 VARIANT

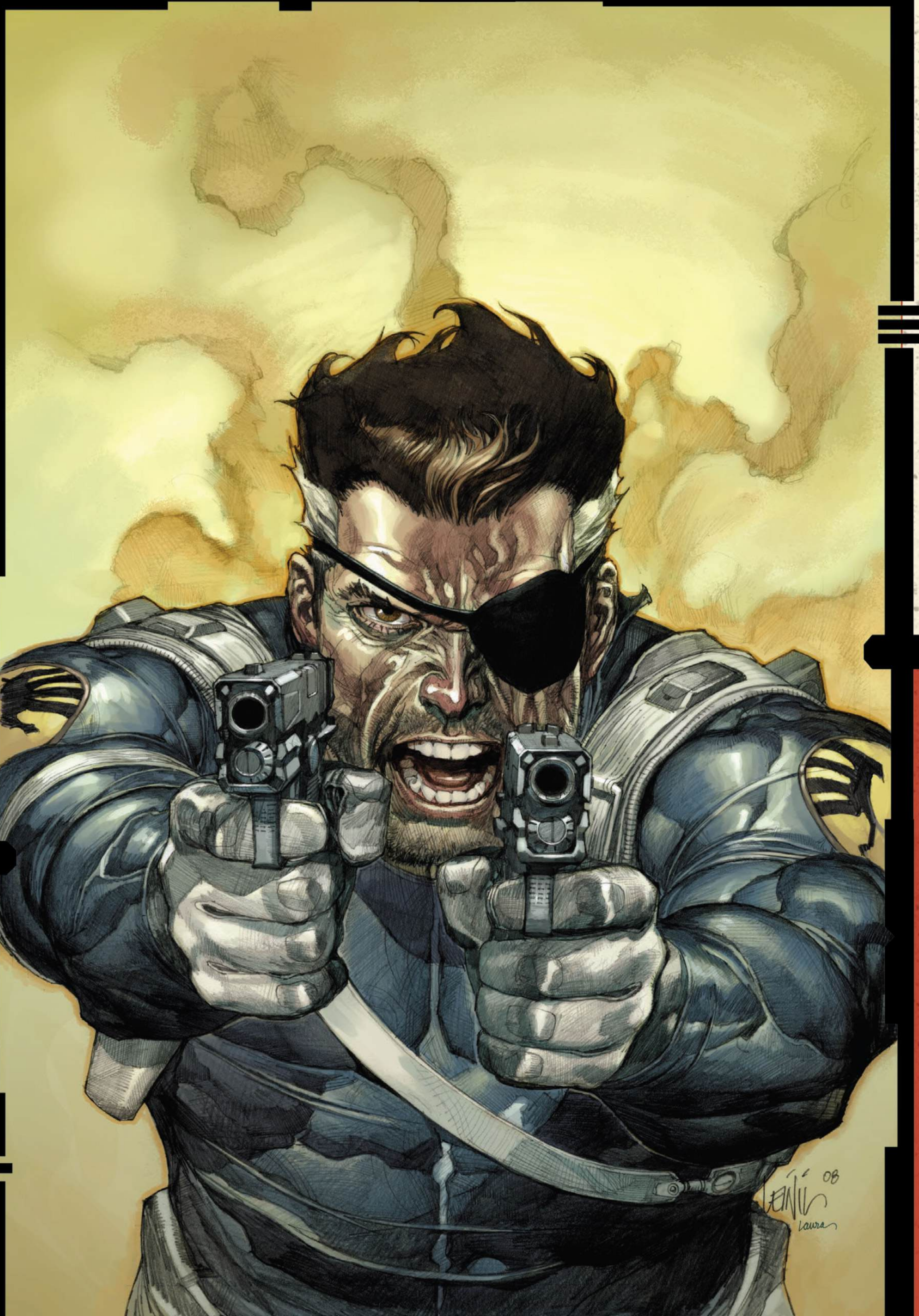
BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU** & **JUSTIN PONSOR**



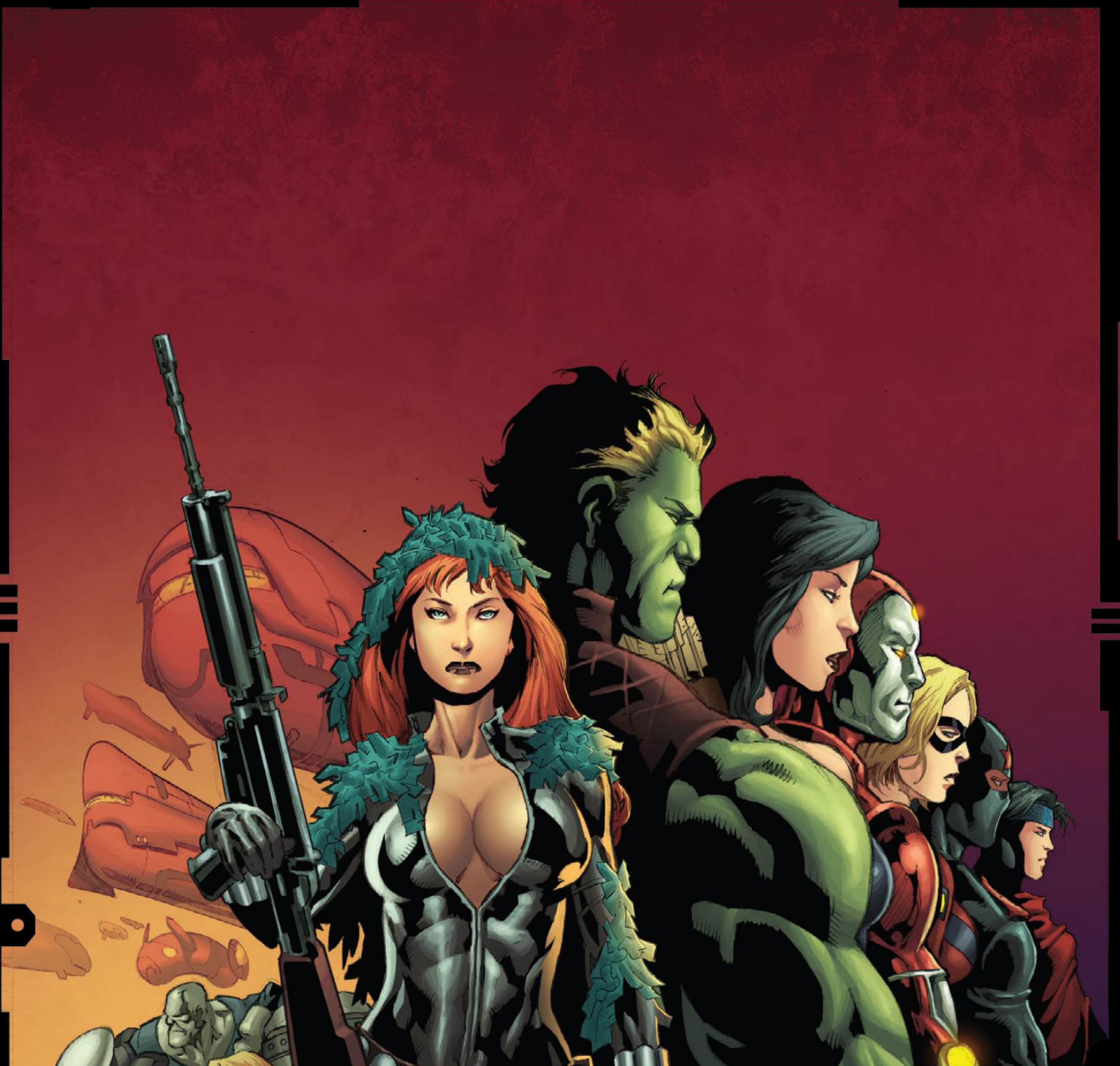
SECRET INVASION #3 DYNAMIC FORCES VARIANT
BY **MEL RUBI** & **FRANK MARTIN JR.**



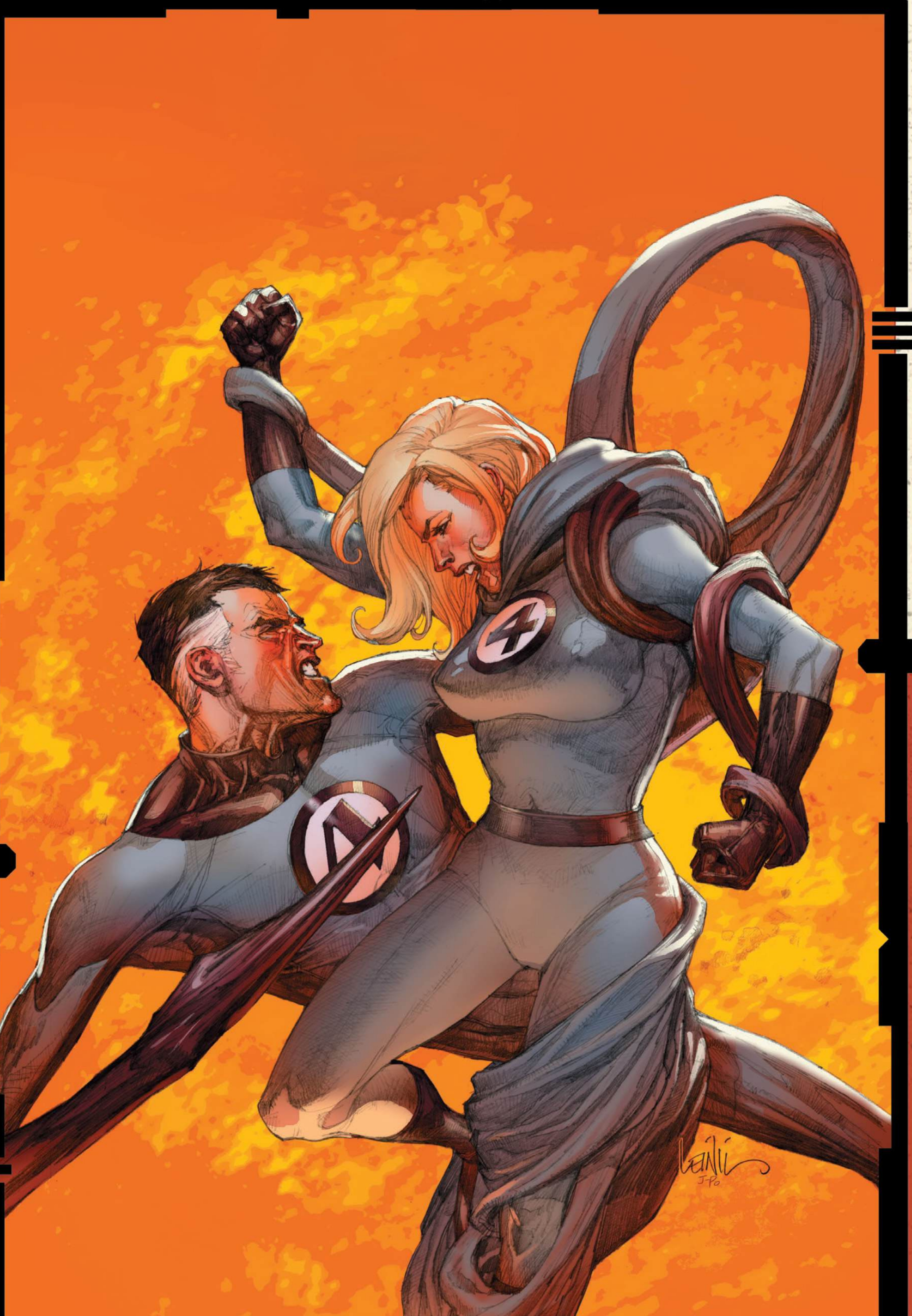
SECRET INVASION #4 VARIANT
BY **STEVE McNIVEN** & **MORRY HOLLOWELL**



SECRET INVASION #4 VARIANT
BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU** & **LAURA MARTIN**

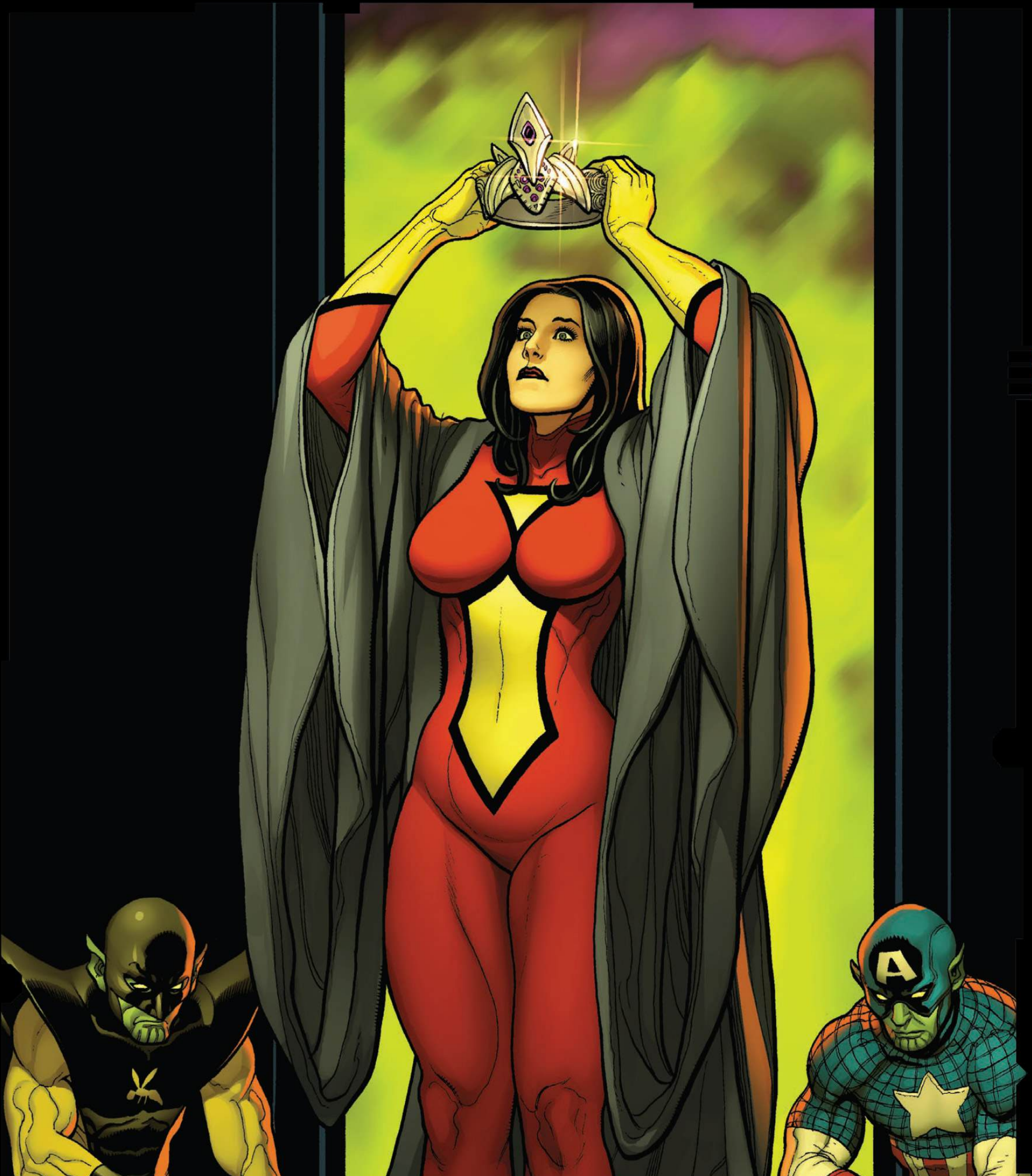


SECRET INVASION #4 DYNAMIC FORCES VARIANT
BY **MEL RUBI** & **FRANK MARTIN JR.**



SECRET INVASION #5 VARIANT
BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU** & **JUSTIN PONSOR**

SECRET INVASION #5 DYNAMIC FORCES VARIANT BY **MEL RUBI**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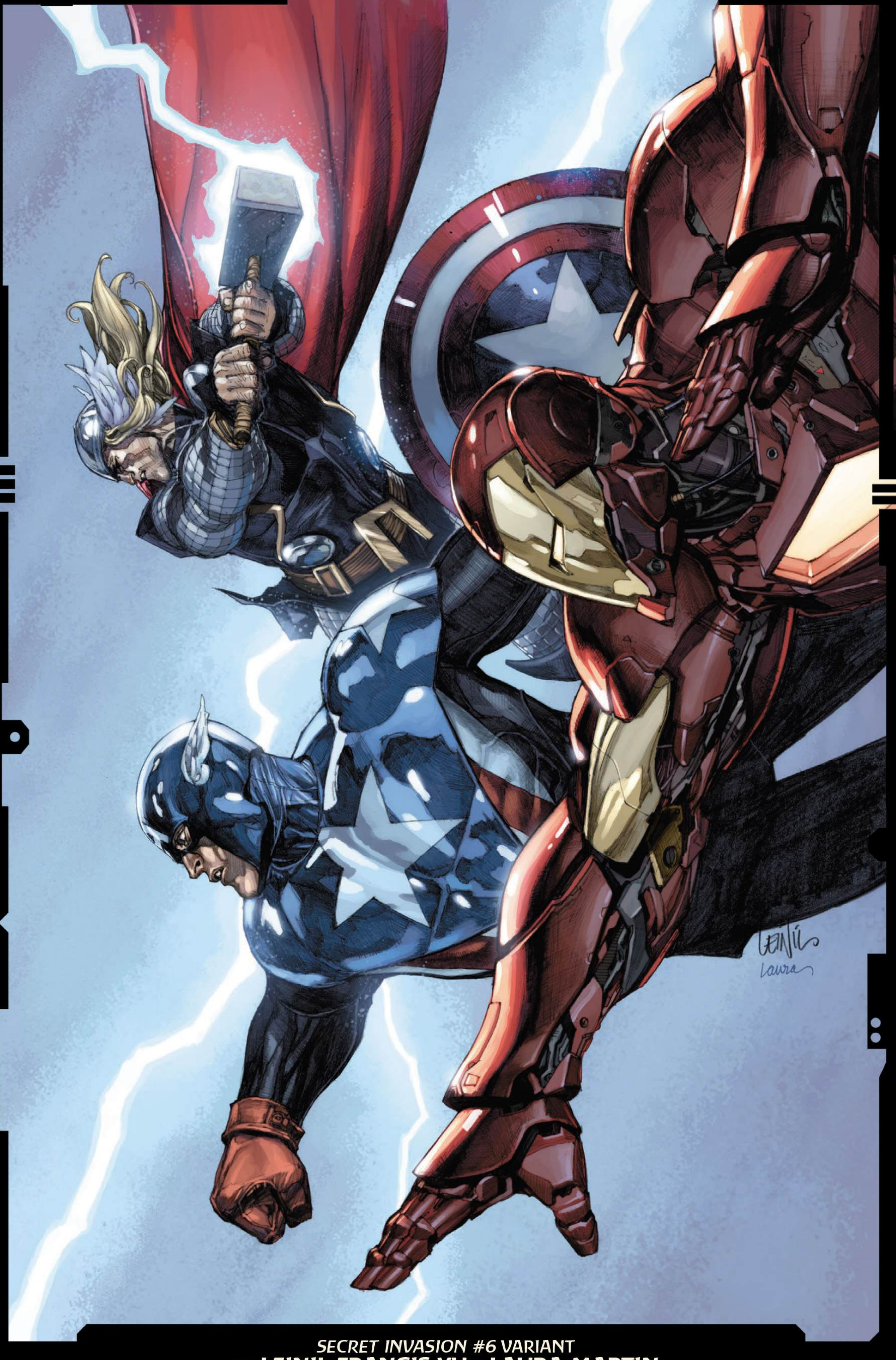
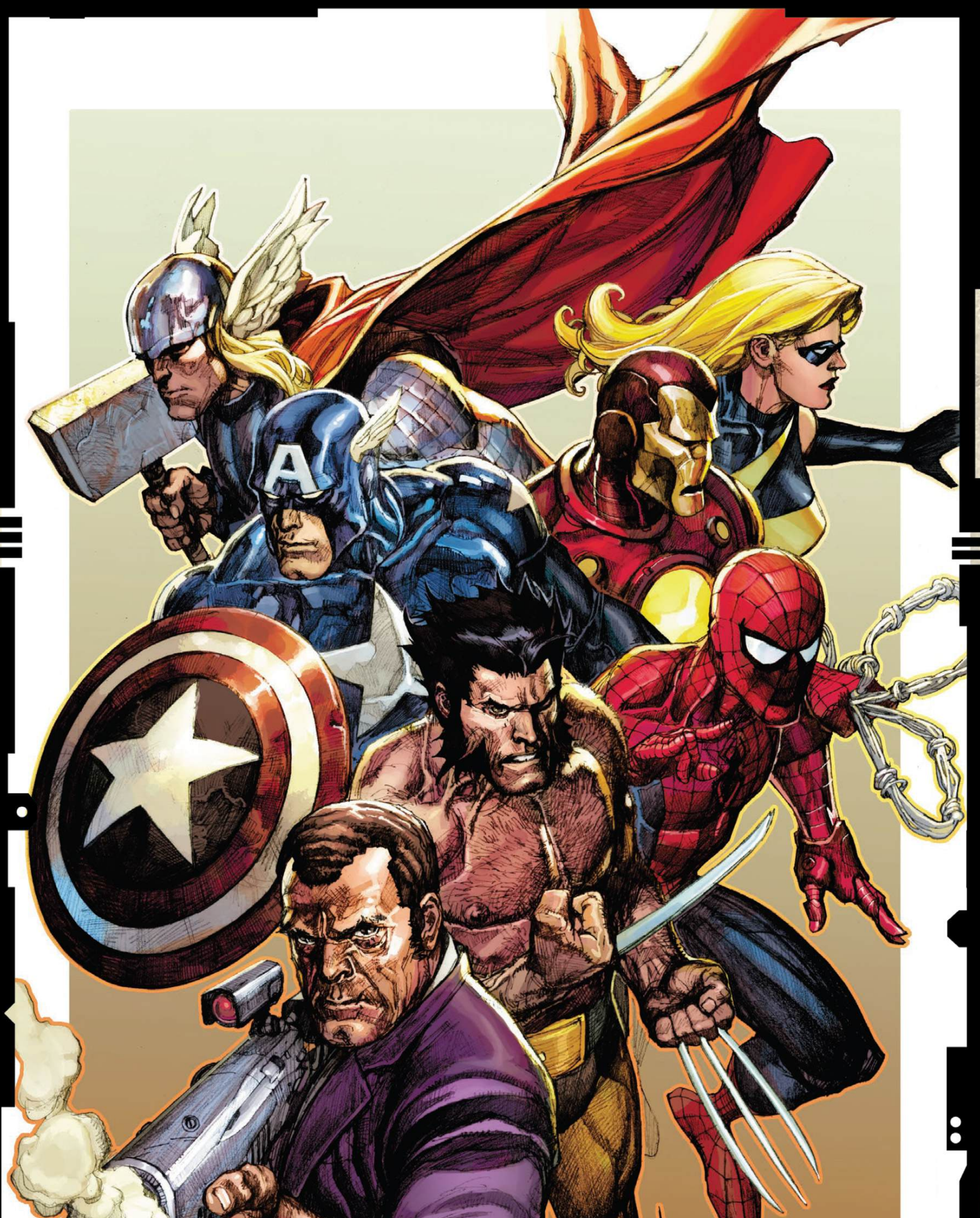
SECRET INVASION #6 VARIANT BY **FRANK CHO** & **JASON KEITH**



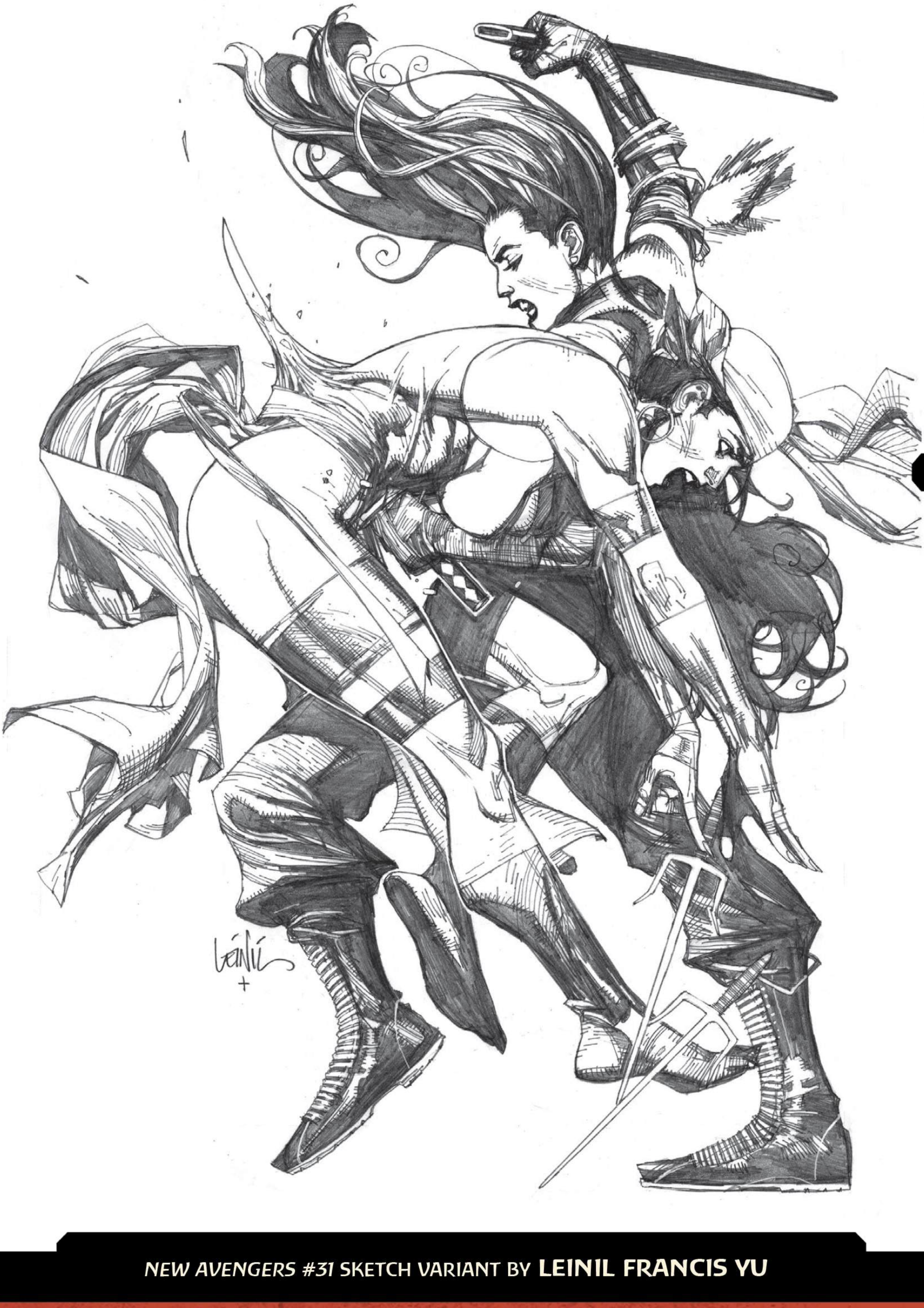
SECRET INVASION #6 VARIANT
BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU** & **LAURA MARTIN**

LEINIL + WHITE

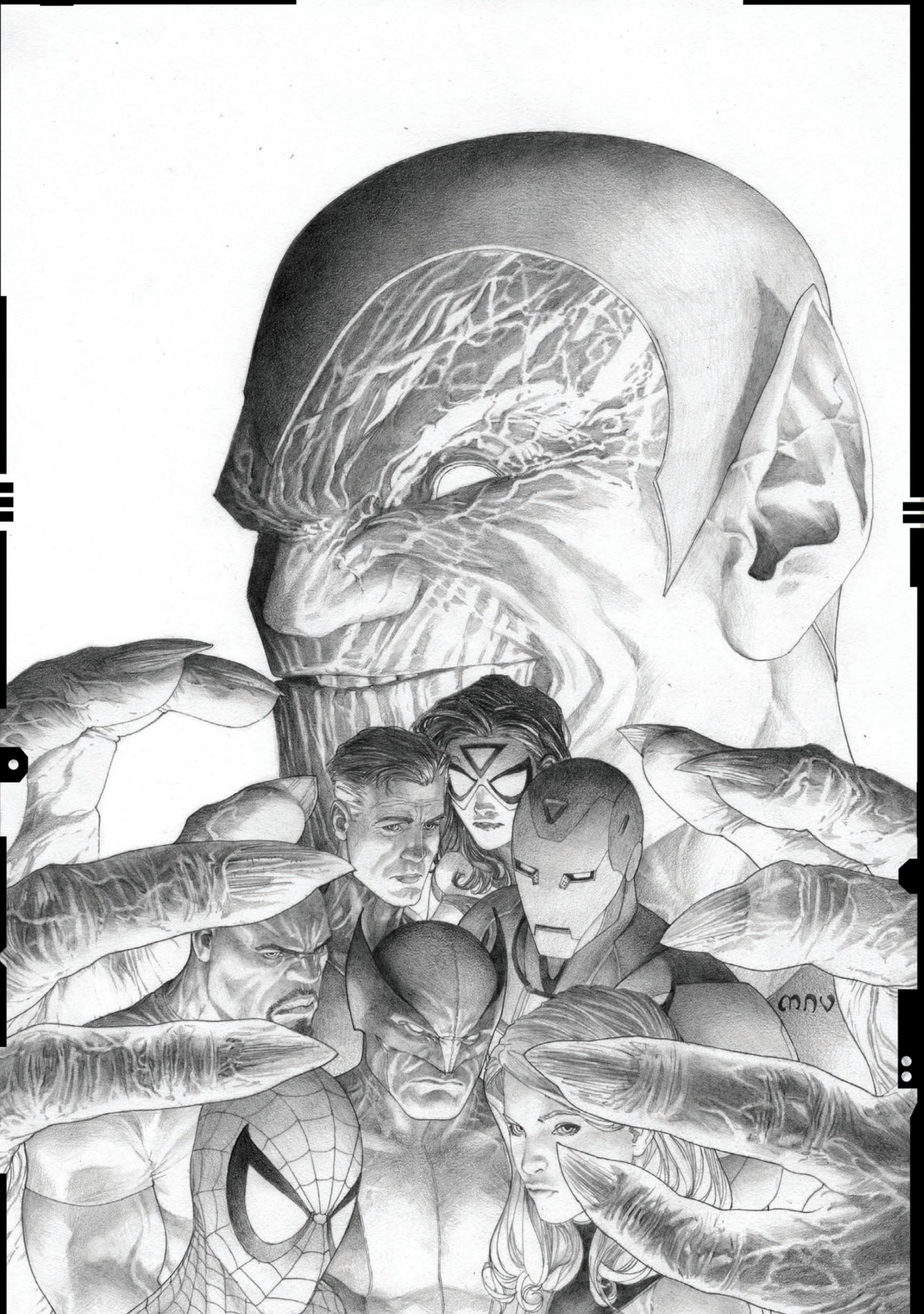
SECRET INVASION #7 VARIANT BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU** & **DEAN WHITE**



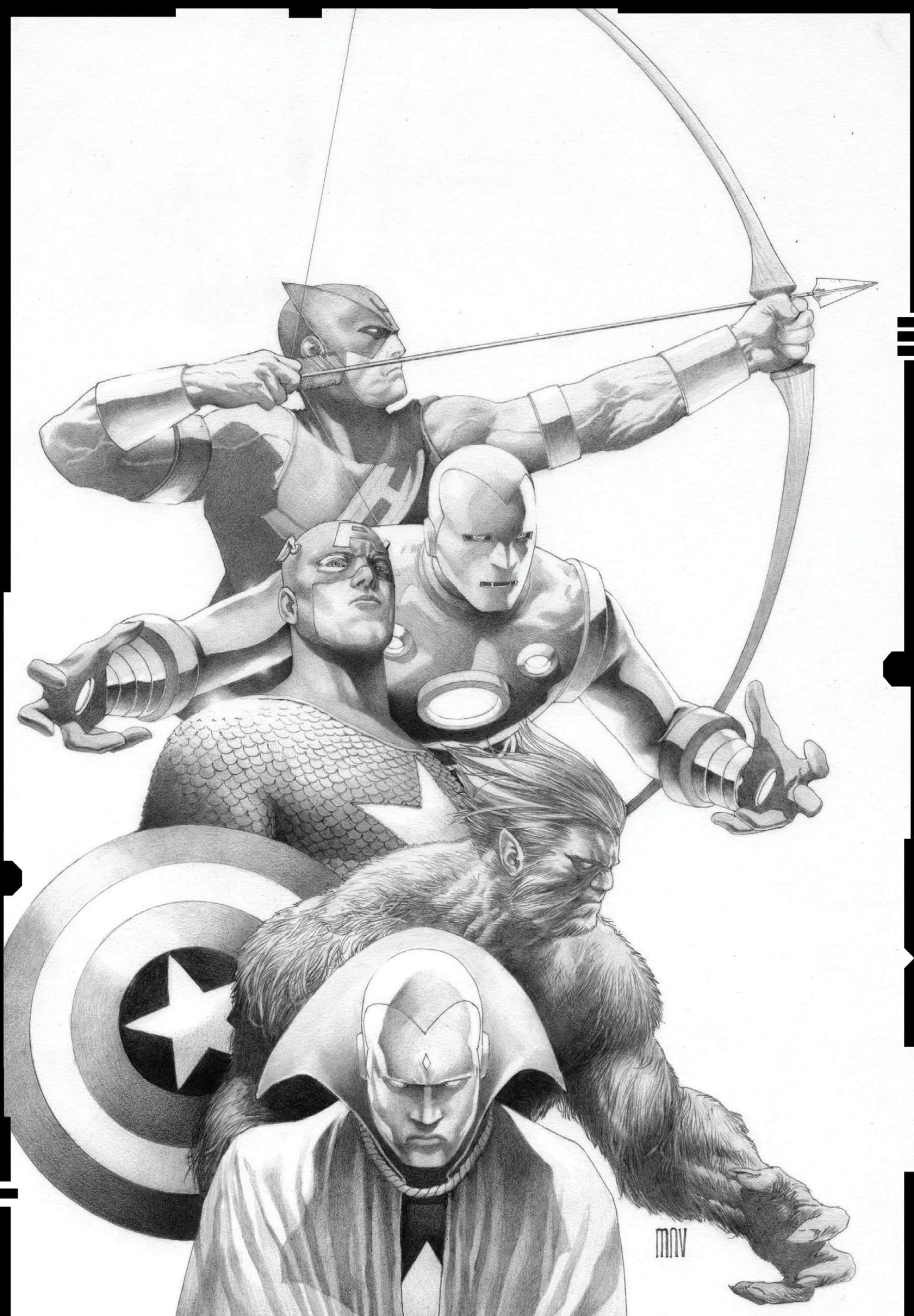
SECRET INVASION #8 VARIANT BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU** & **DEAN WHITE**



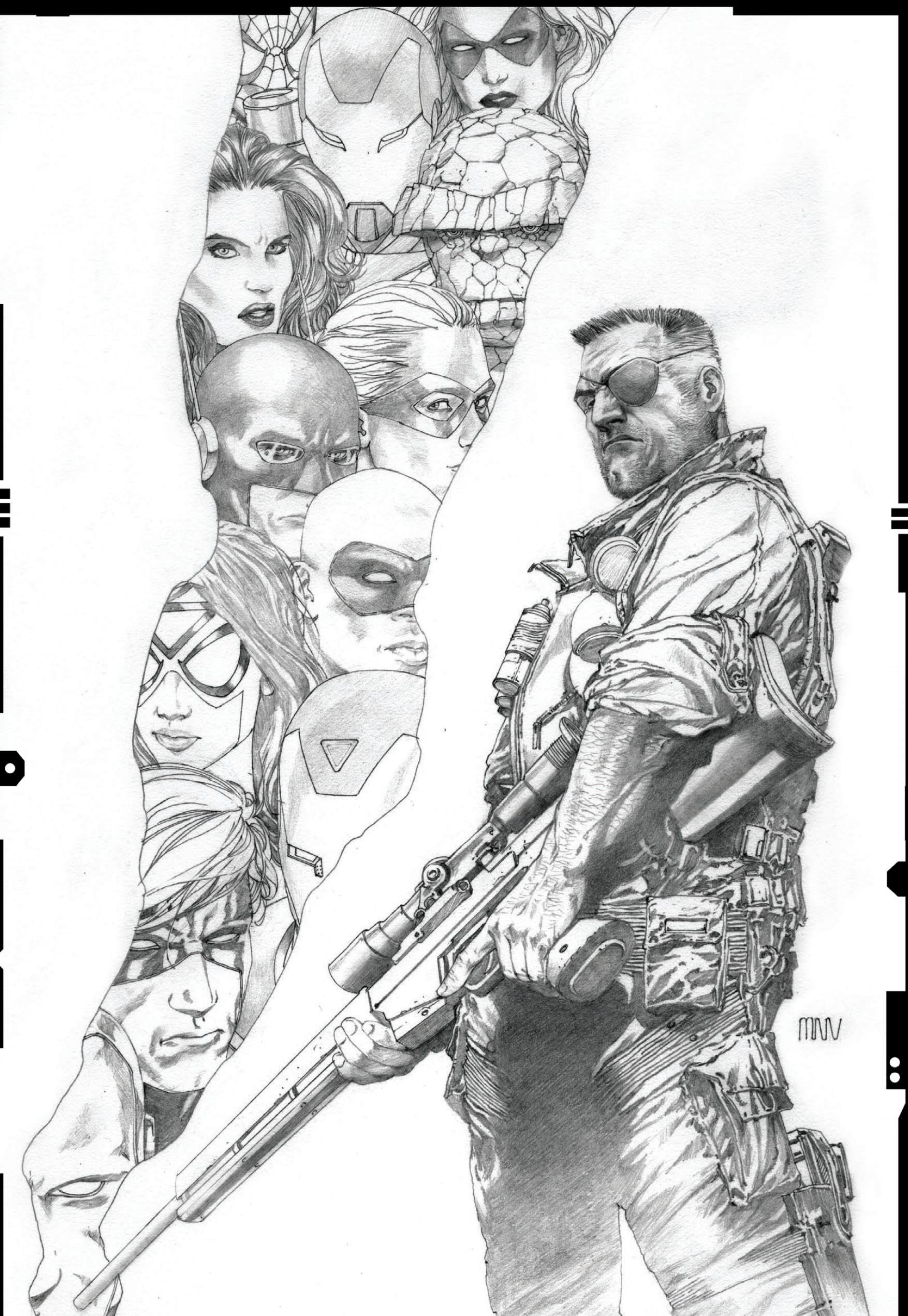
NEW AVENGERS #31 SKETCH VARIANT BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU**



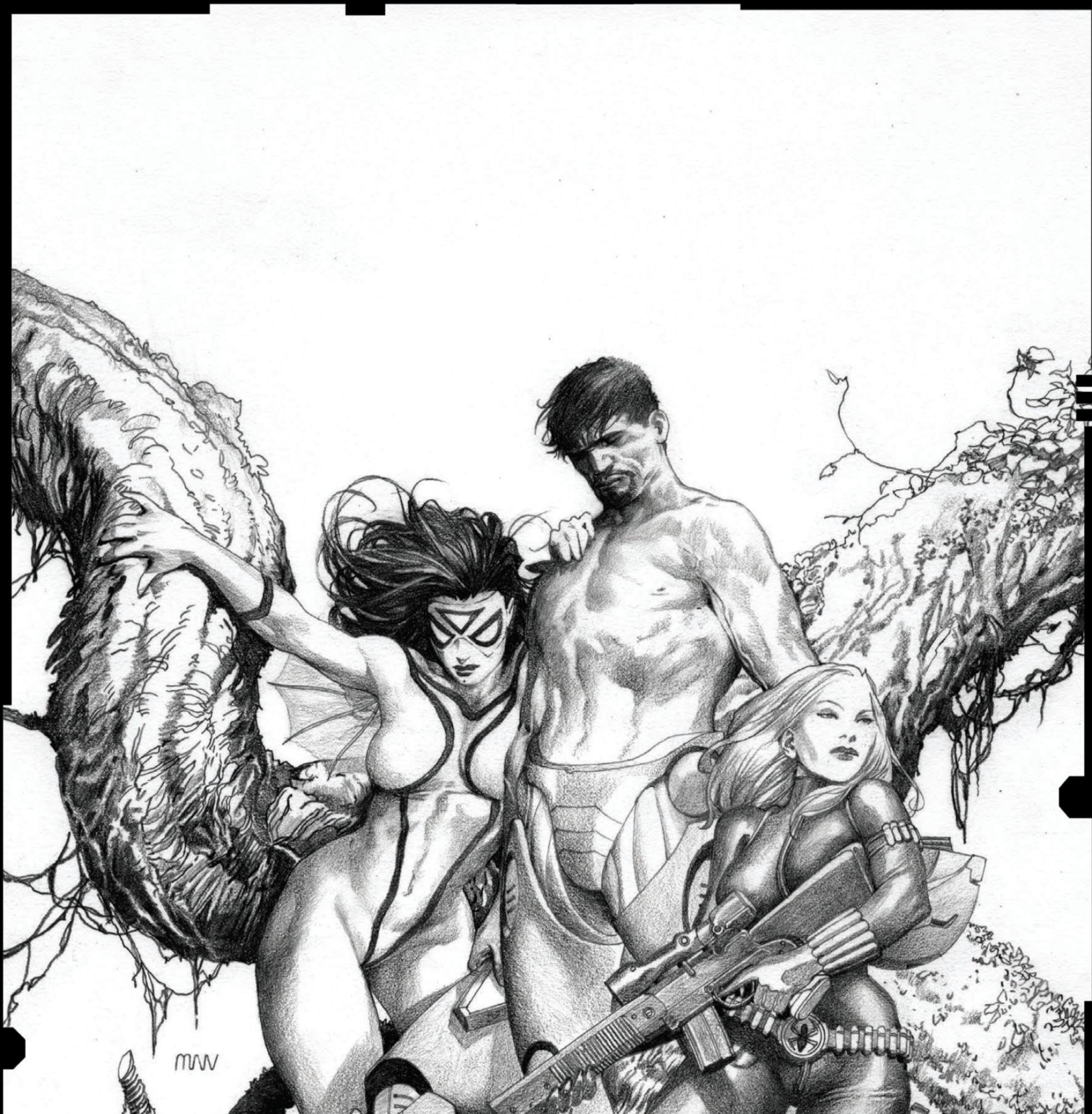
SECRET INVASION #1 SKETCH VARIANT BY **STEVE McNIVEN**



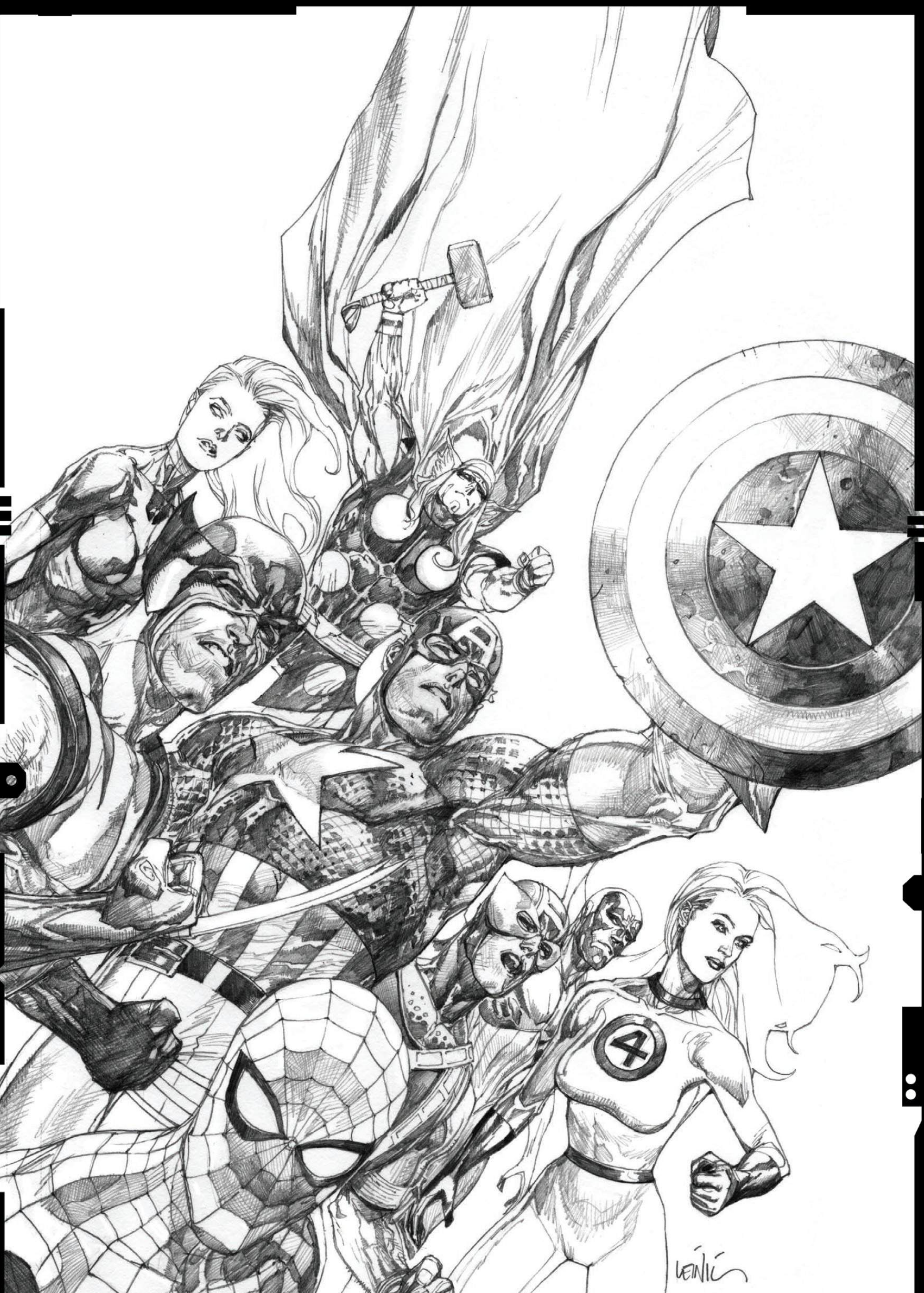
SECRET INVASION #2 SKETCH VARIANT BY **STEVE McNIVEN**



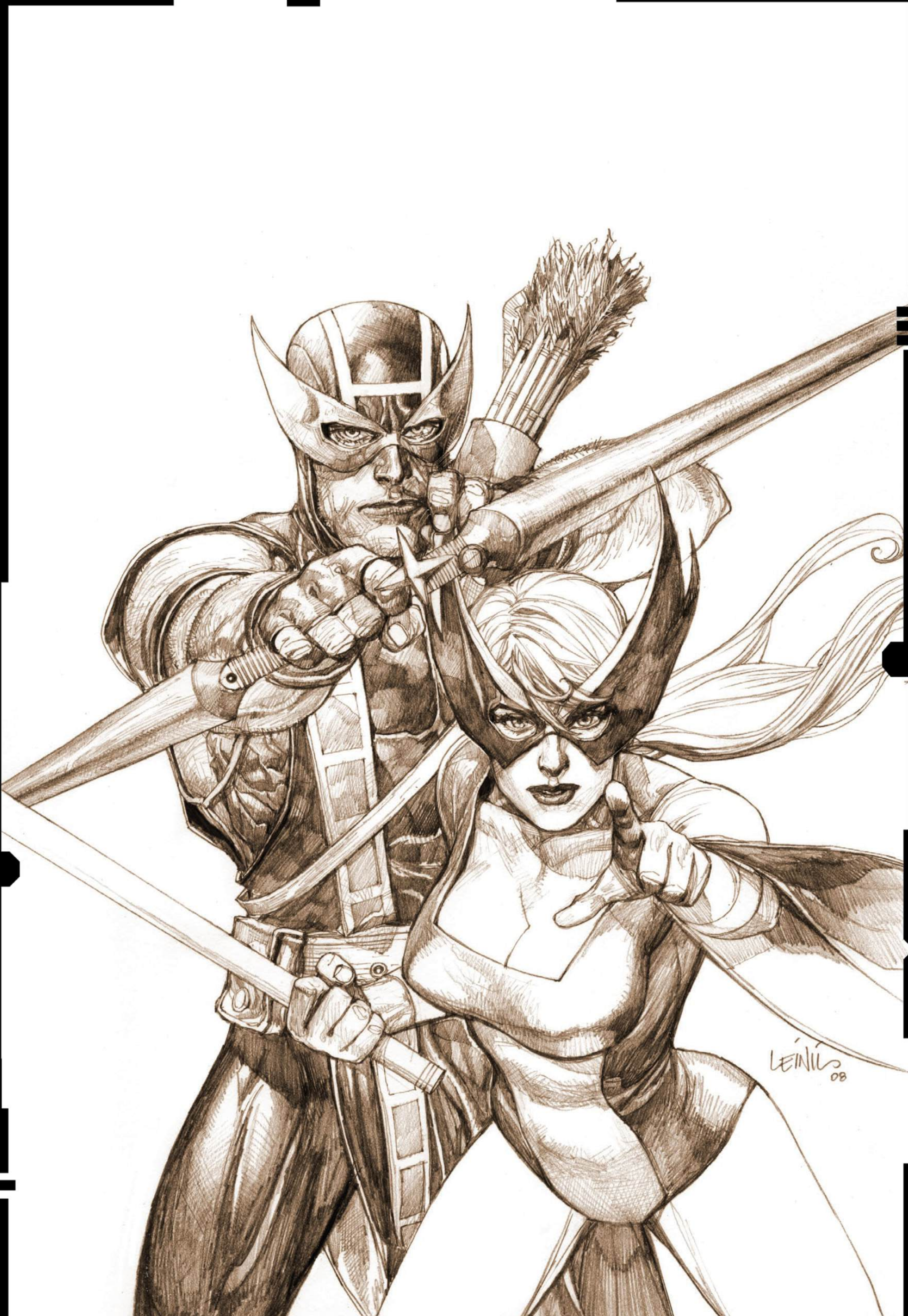
SECRET INVASION #3 SKETCH VARIANT BY **STEVE McNIVEN**



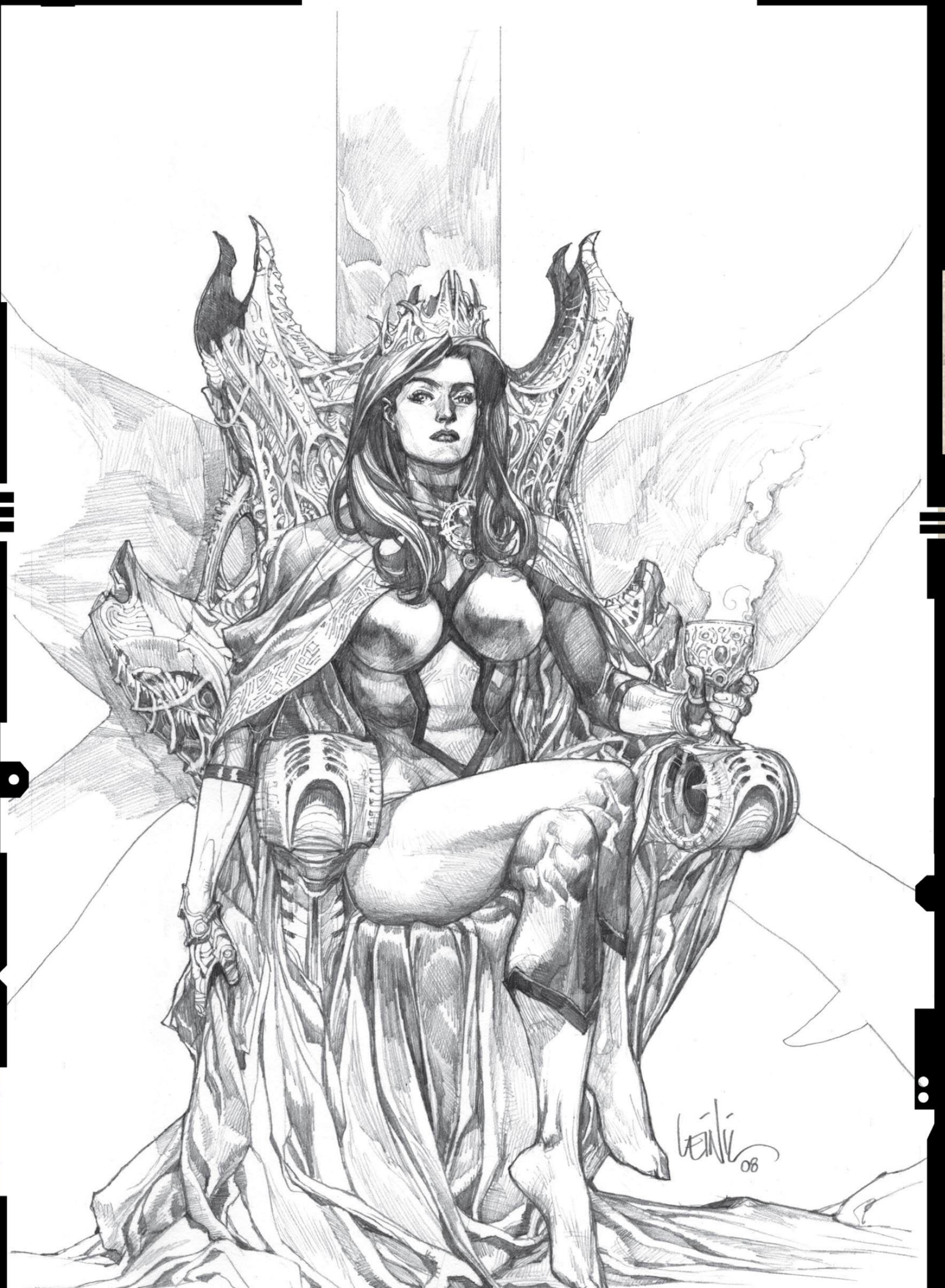
SECRET INVASION #4 SKETCH VARIANT BY **STEVE McNIVEN**



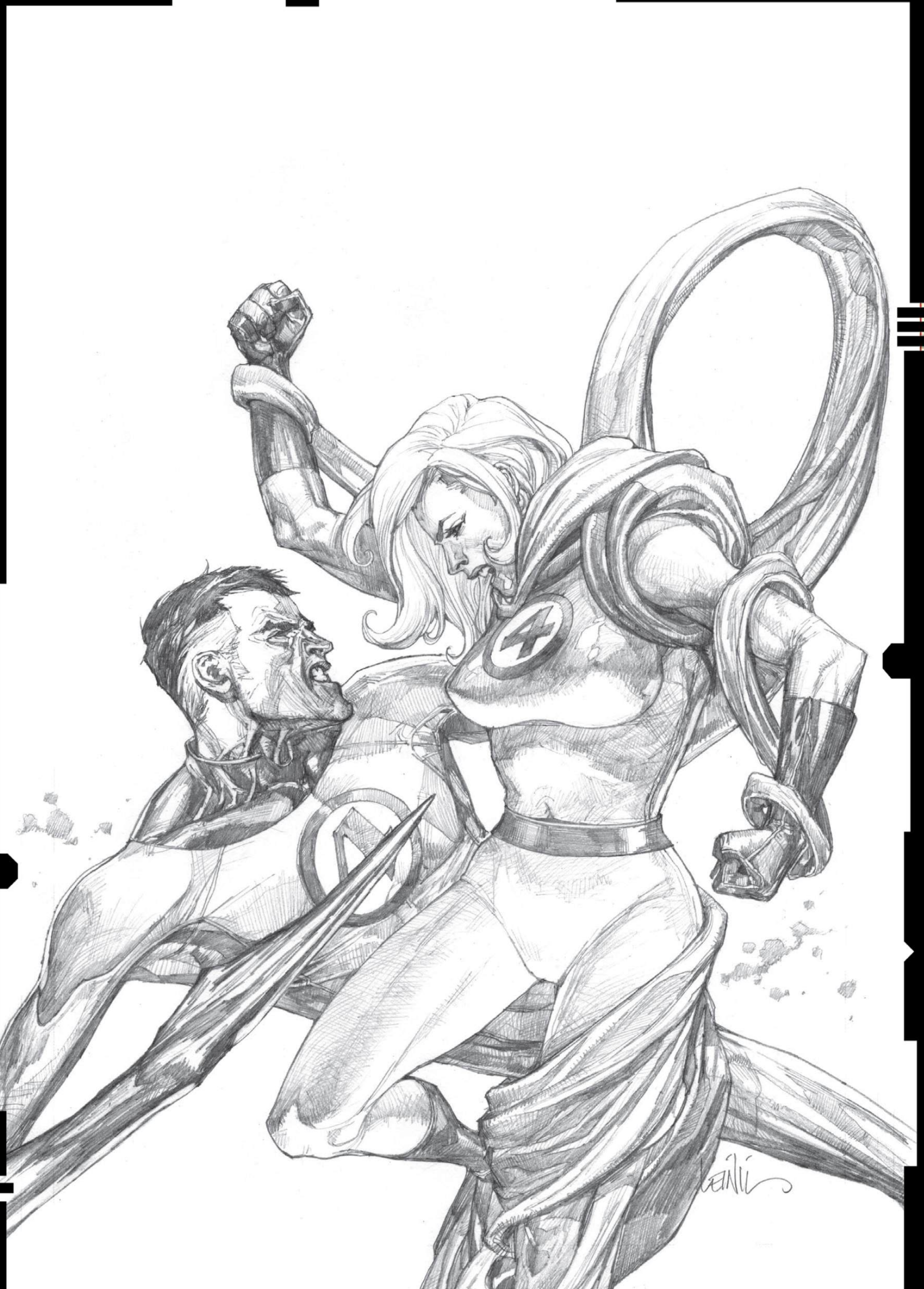
SECRET INVASION #1 3RD-PRINTING SKETCH VARIANT
BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU**



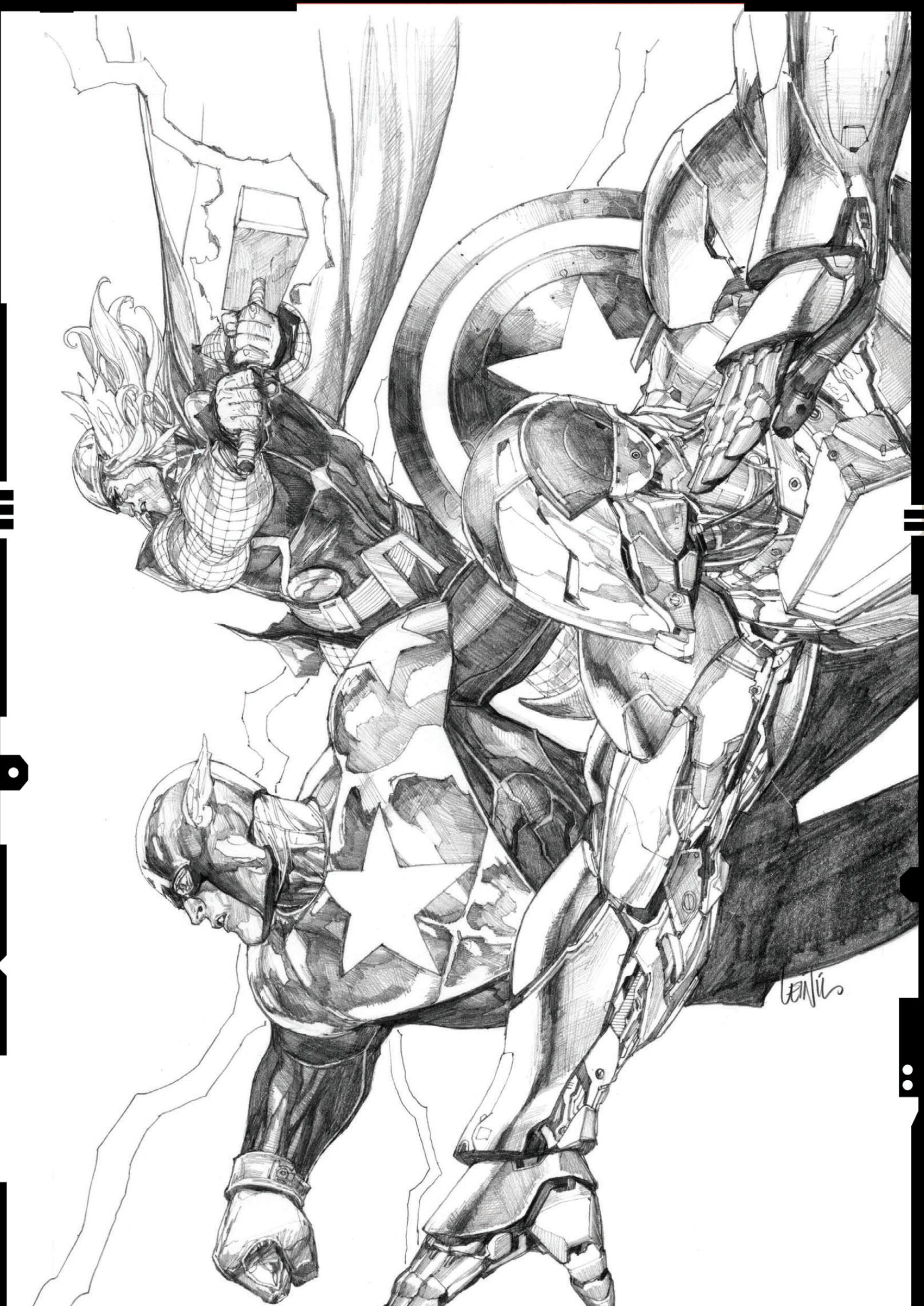
SECRET INVASION #2 3RD-PRINTING SKETCH VARIANT
BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU**



SECRET INVASION #3 3RD-PRINTING SKETCH VARIANT
BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU**



SECRET INVASION #5 SKETCH VARIANT BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU**



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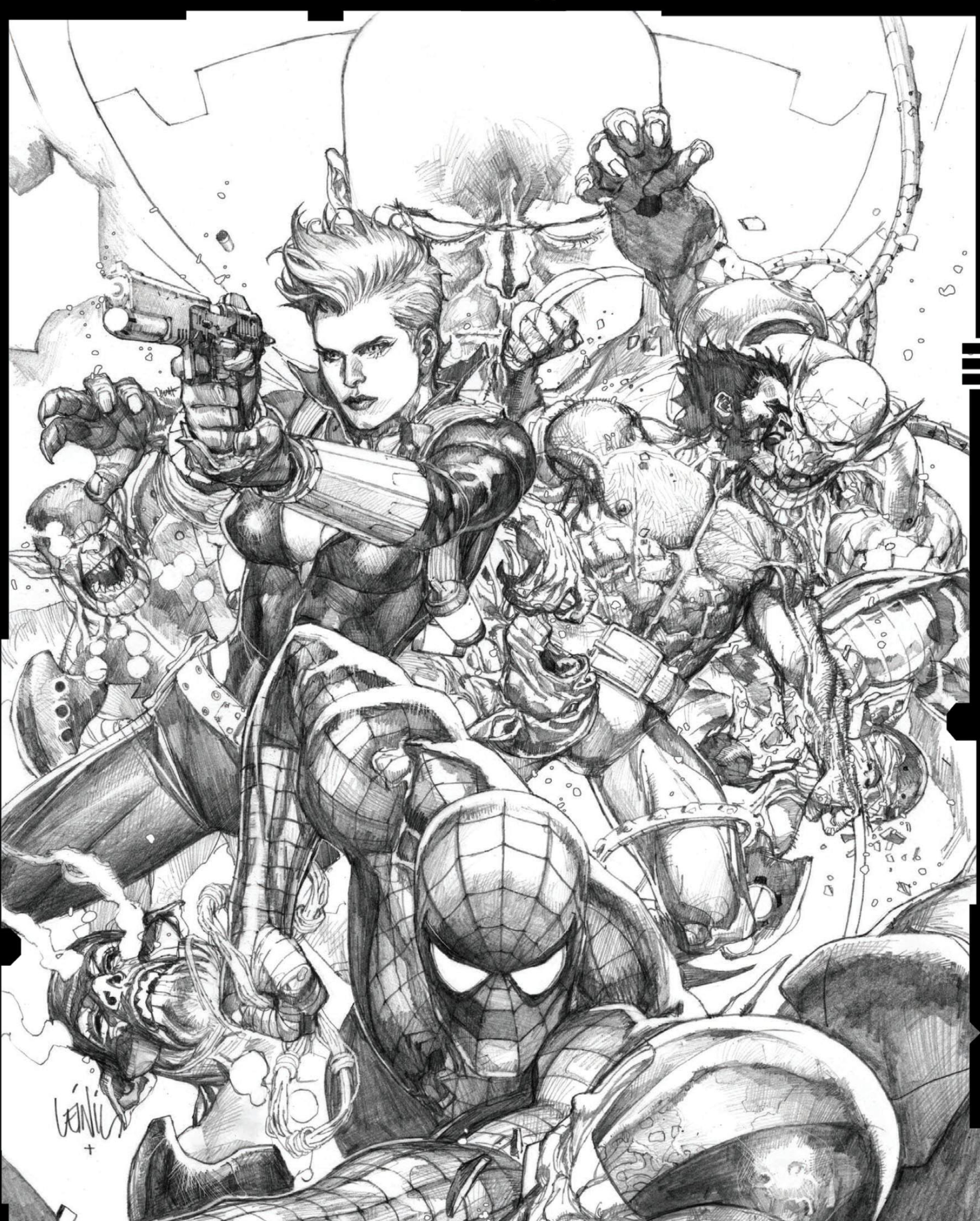

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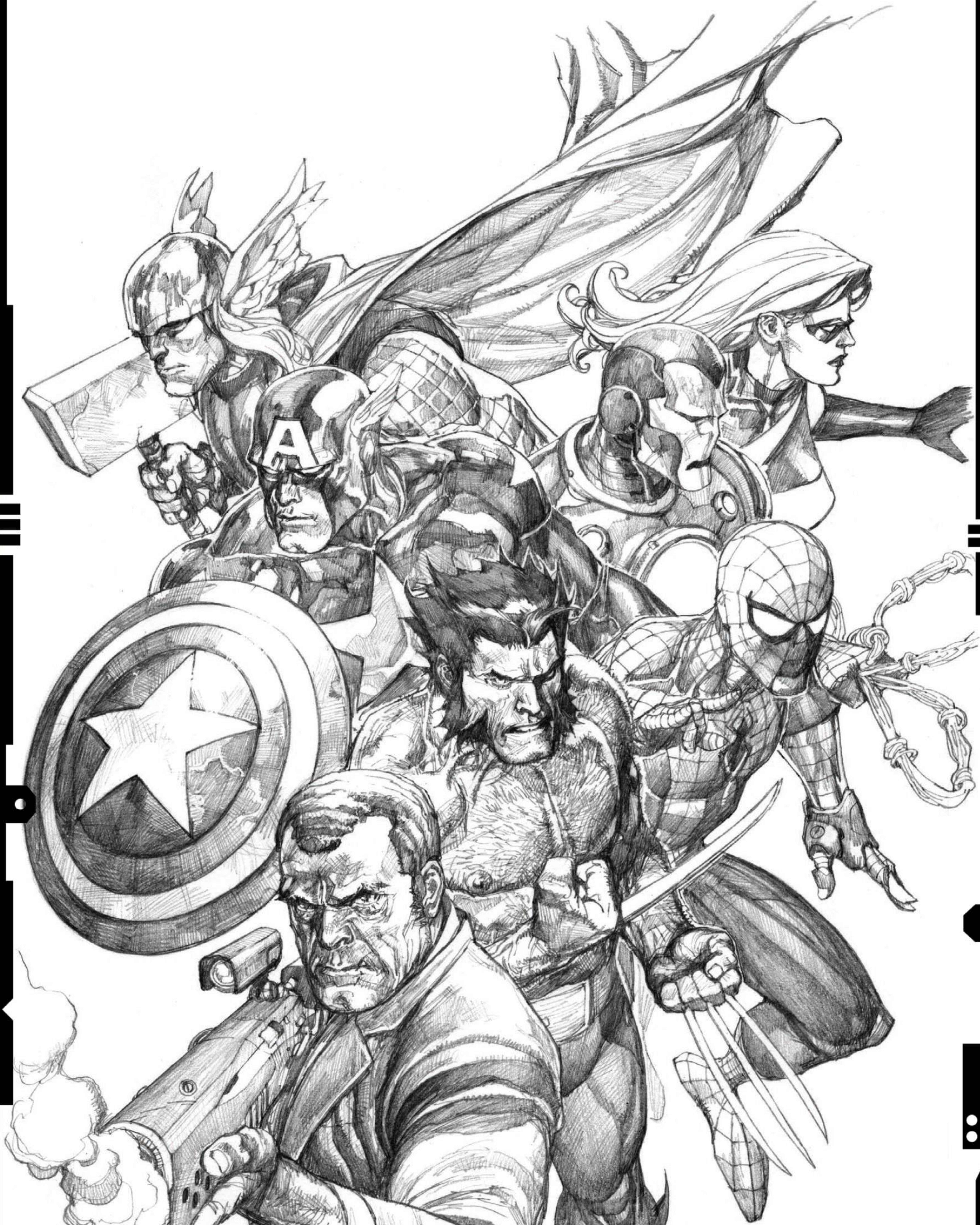

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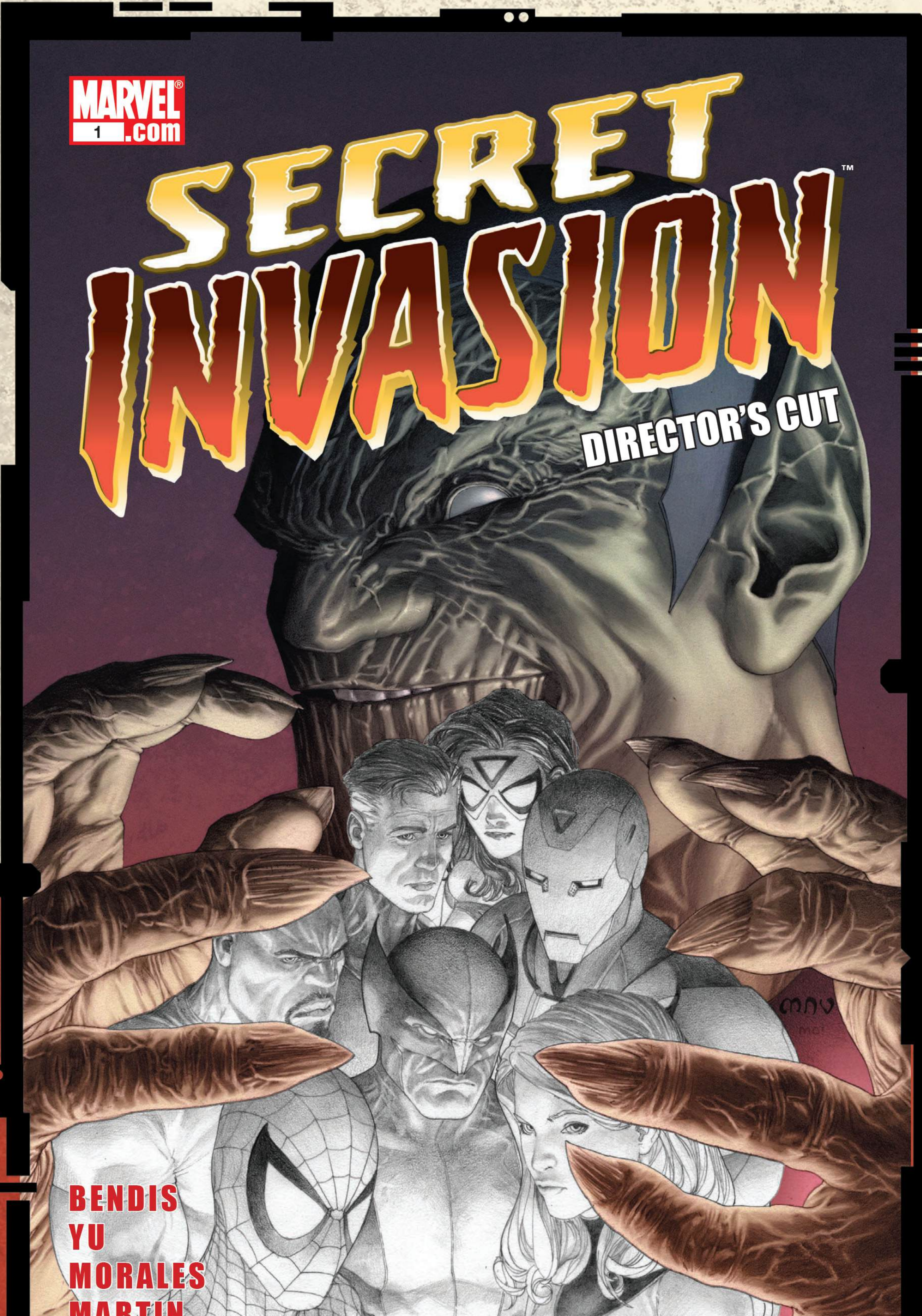
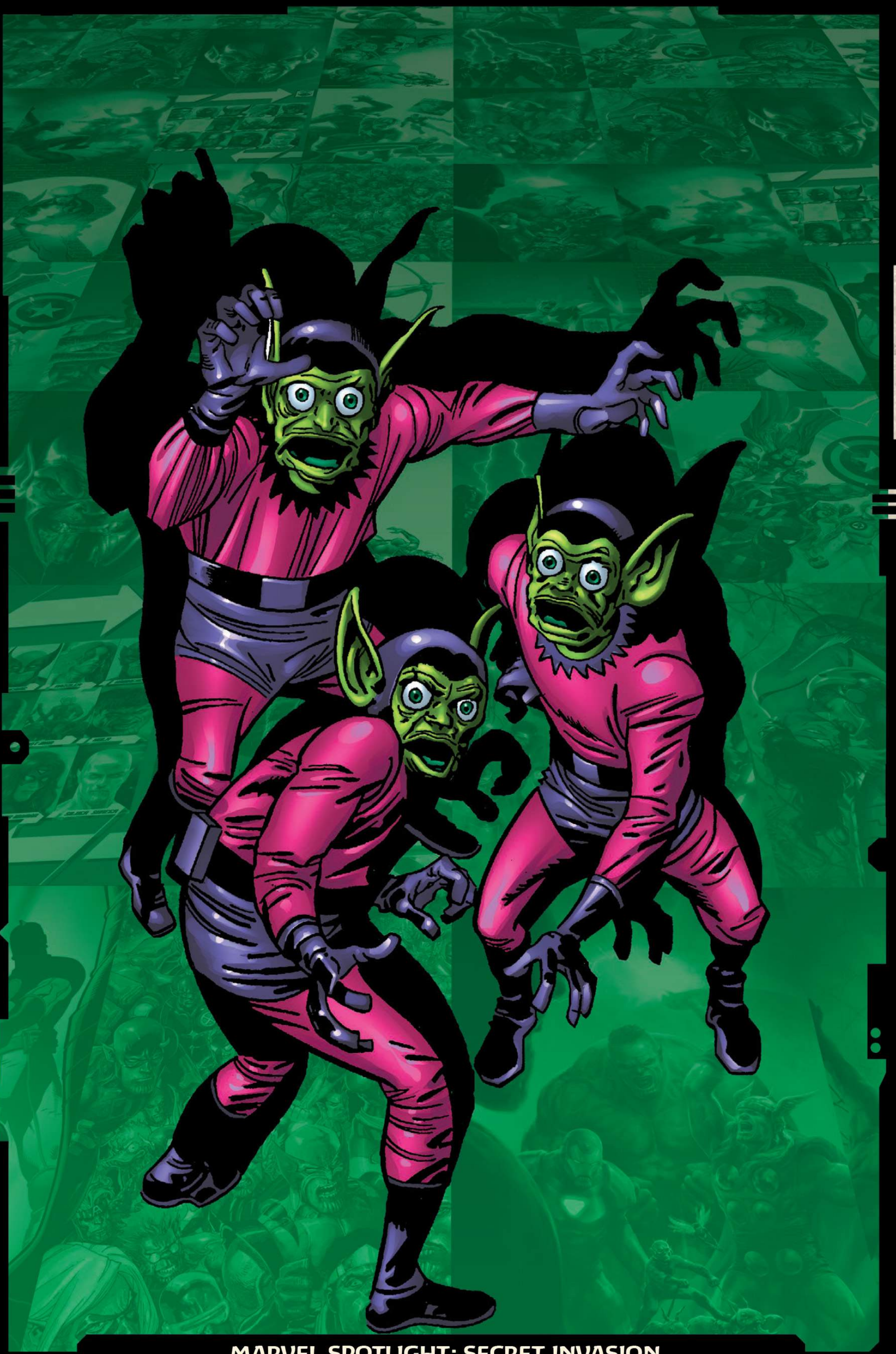
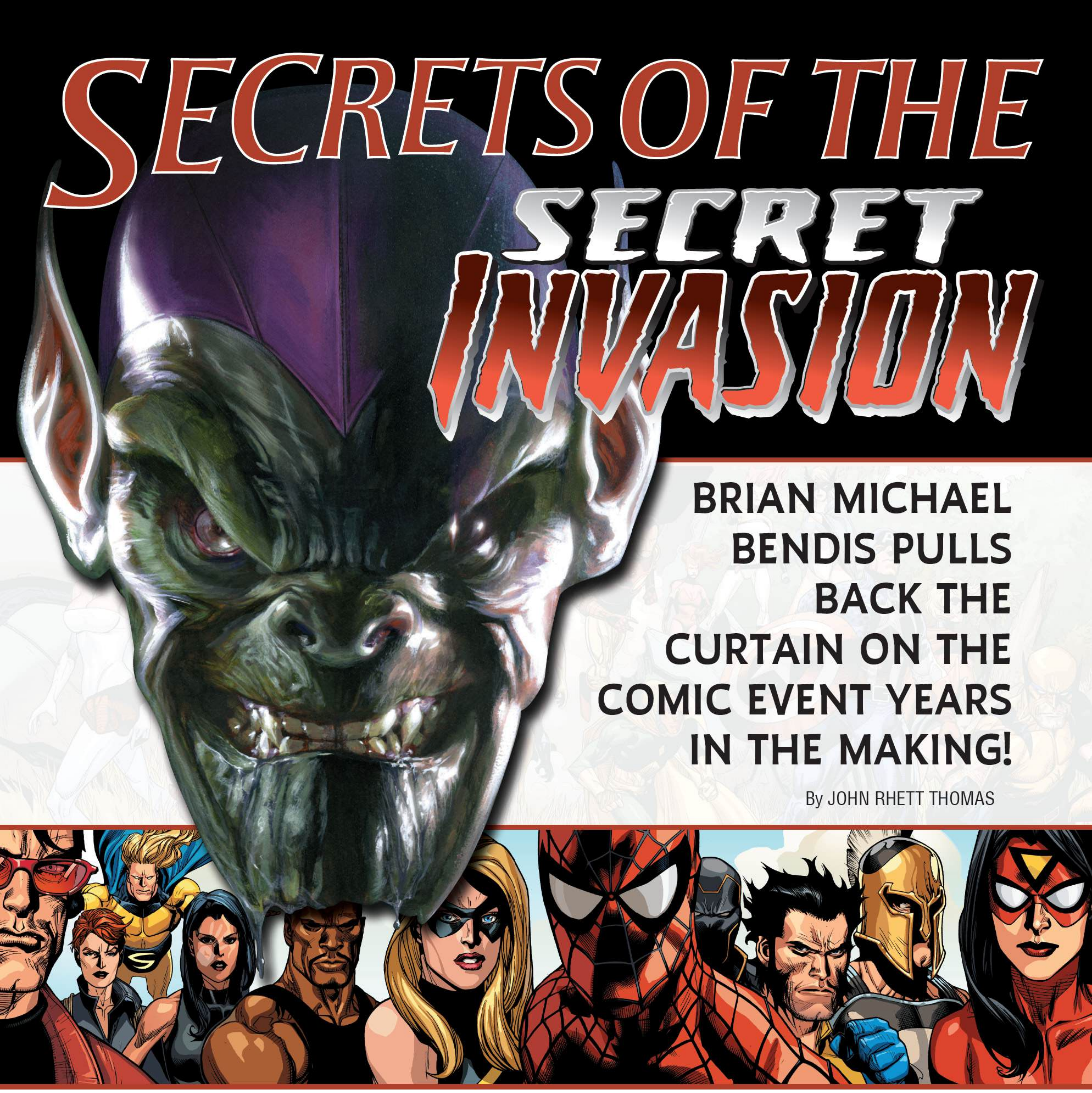

MARVEL
1 .com
SECRET INVASION
DIRECTOR'S CUT
BENDIS
YU
MORALES
MARTIN

SECRET INVASION #1 DIRECTOR'S CUT COVER
BY **STEVE McNIVEN** & **MORRY HOLLOWELL**



MARVEL SPOTLIGHT: SECRET INVASION
COVER ART BY **JACK KIRBY** & **CHRIS SOTOMAYOR**

SECRETS OF THE SECRET INVASION



BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS PULLS BACK THE CURTAIN ON THE COMIC EVENT YEARS IN THE MAKING!

By JOHN RHETT THOMAS

Over the last three and a half years — in the pages of *New Avengers*, *House of M*, *Secret War*, *Spider-Woman*: *Origin* and other titles — astute Marvel fans have been watching the many machinations of Brian Michael Bendis and wondering when the method to his madness would be revealed. From the dangling plot threads left over from the very first story arc of *New Avengers*, to the "blink and you miss it" appearance of a Skrull in *House of M*, to the disappearance of Nick Fury from the Marvel scene and the downright odd behavior of cult favorite character Spider-Woman, it's inspired many fans to ask, in the spirit of a classic Tom Waits song, "What the heck is he building in there?!?!"

Writer Brian Michael Bendis

Spotlight's interview with Brian Bendis uncovers a few of the secrets behind the curtain of the Skrull invasion that has, no lie, *taken over* the Marvel Universe.

SPOTLIGHT: **As we go to press, the third issue of Secret Invasion is getting ready to hit stands. You've been orchestrating this event for over three years now. How do things feel right now?**

BRIAN: You know what, honestly, it has gone over pretty well. I had planned (this story) for years, not exactly sure what shape it was gonna take. Then, my bosses at Marvel were kind of leaning on me, saying, "Hey, if you want to do it right, it's got to be a big Marvel event."

I thought I had already done a big Marvel event (with *House of M*) so I didn't think I would get to do another one, you know? But I said, "Let's go for it."

SPOTLIGHT: This is the kind of crossover event that scales very well to all the other titles.

BRIAN: Yeah. Because the Avengers had covered so much ground in the Marvel Universe, I thought I'd just do the Skrull invasion there, thinking that it would be my "Big Avengers Thing." But Marvel was like, "No, you've got a big thing here. If the Skrulls invade to the level you say, then you've got to go nuts."

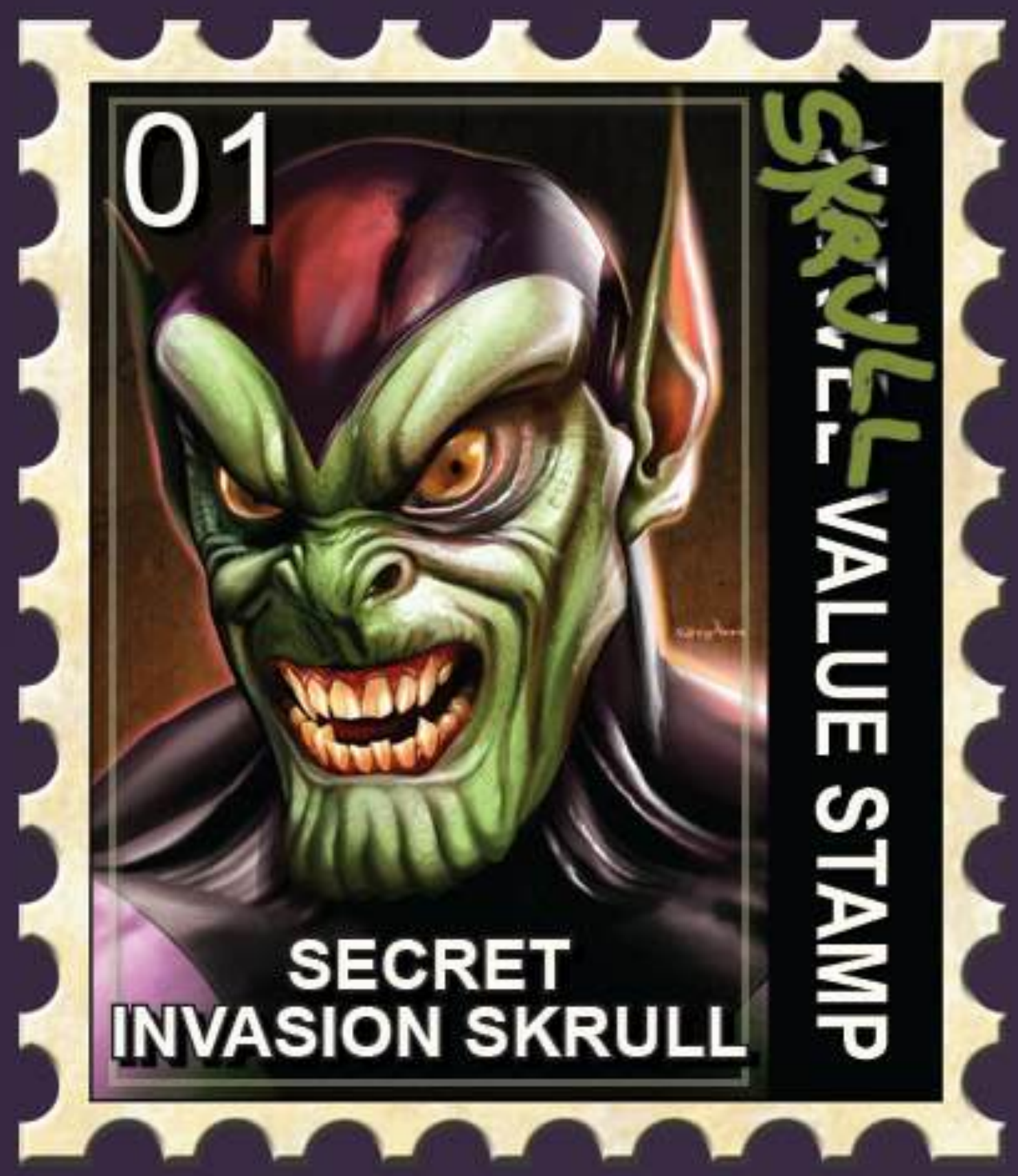
SPOTLIGHT: And so we have the 2008 version of the *Civil War* crossover.

BRIAN: *Civil War* was lightning in a bottle. I was involved with that, and I was very aware that it was lightning in a bottle. I just really didn't want *Secret Invasion* to tank and I'm thrilled that it hasn't. There's just so much stuff that's not in my control.

PORTRAIT OF A SECRET INVASION WITH GREG HORN

Artist Greg Horn

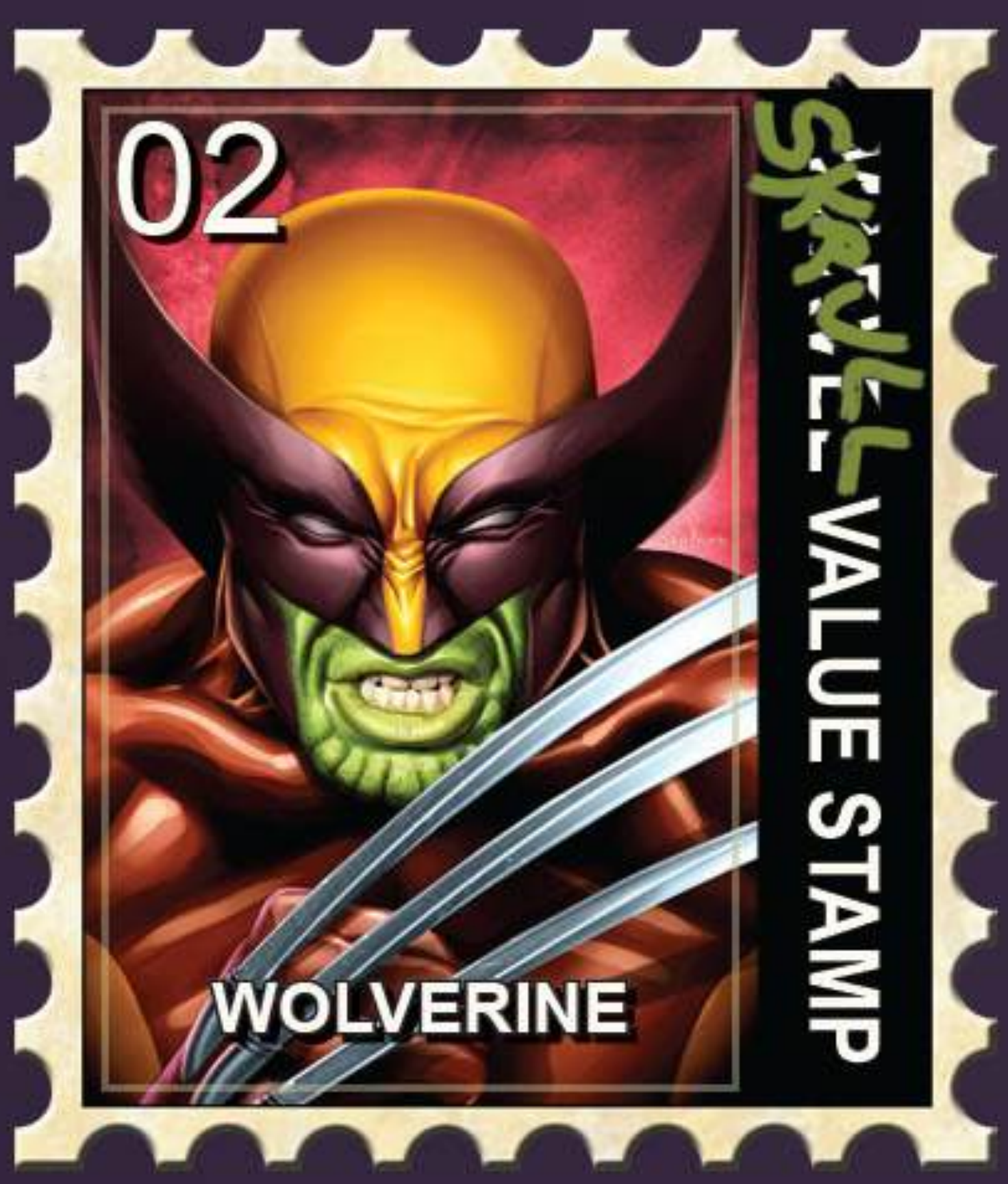
In the spirit of Arthur Suydam's revolutionary zombie-fied versions of classic Marvel covers, Marvel saw a grand opportunity to promote the launch of *Secret Invasion* with a series of portraits commemorating the transformation of the Marvel heroes we know and love into the shape-shifting menaces, the Skrulls! To do that, they brought on artist Greg Horn, well-known cover artist and all around nice guy (assuming he's not also a Skrull!) The promotion was a big success, and *Spotlight* loved his work on these promo images so much we hit him up for inside dirt on the process behind their creation. Our crack team of designers also converted them into a new series of Marvel Value Stamps! We checked with the United States Postmaster General and were informed that these stamps are not "legal tender," but perhaps when the Skrull invasion is complete, our new Skrull overlords will see things differently! Until then, thanks Greg for delivering these awesome images and tell us more about them!

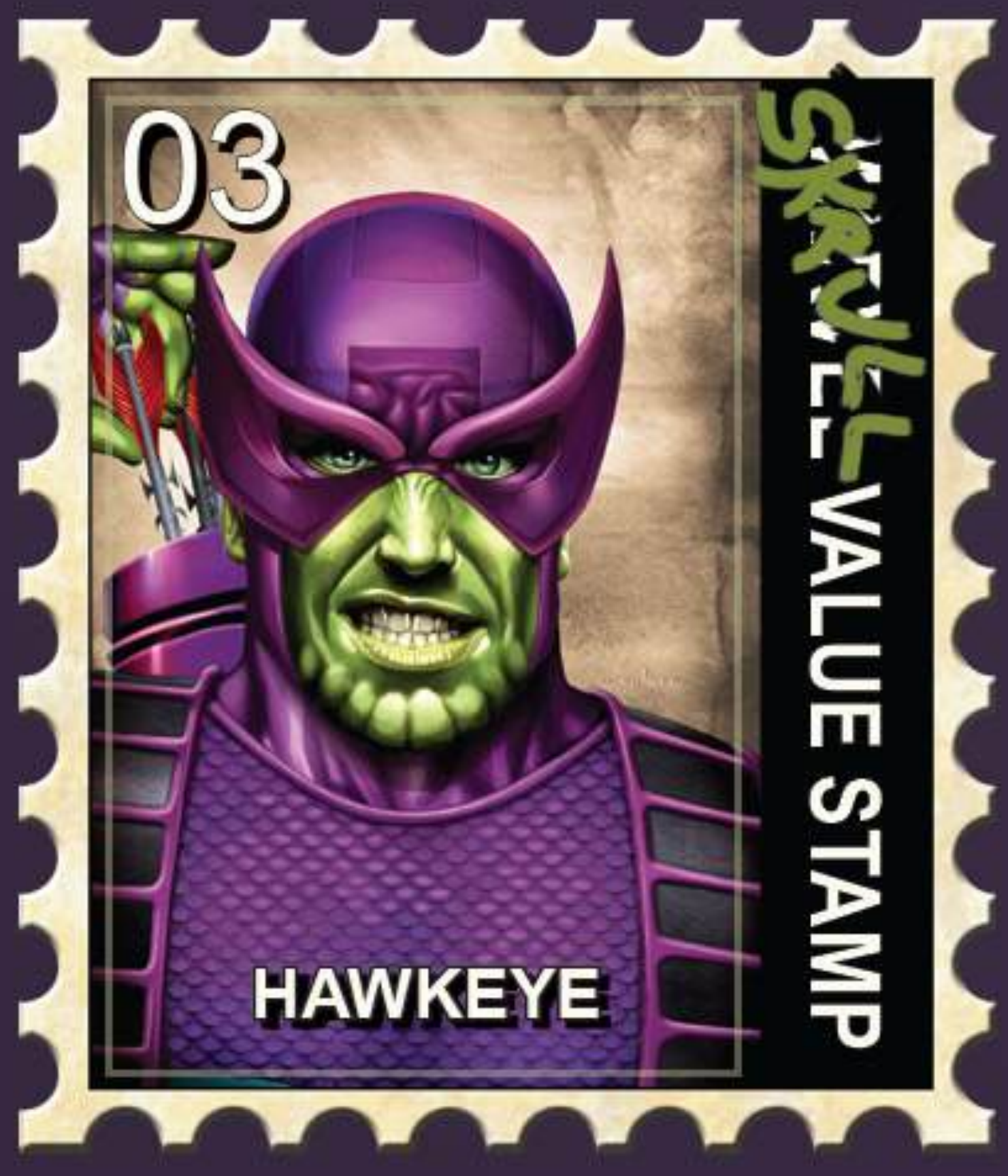


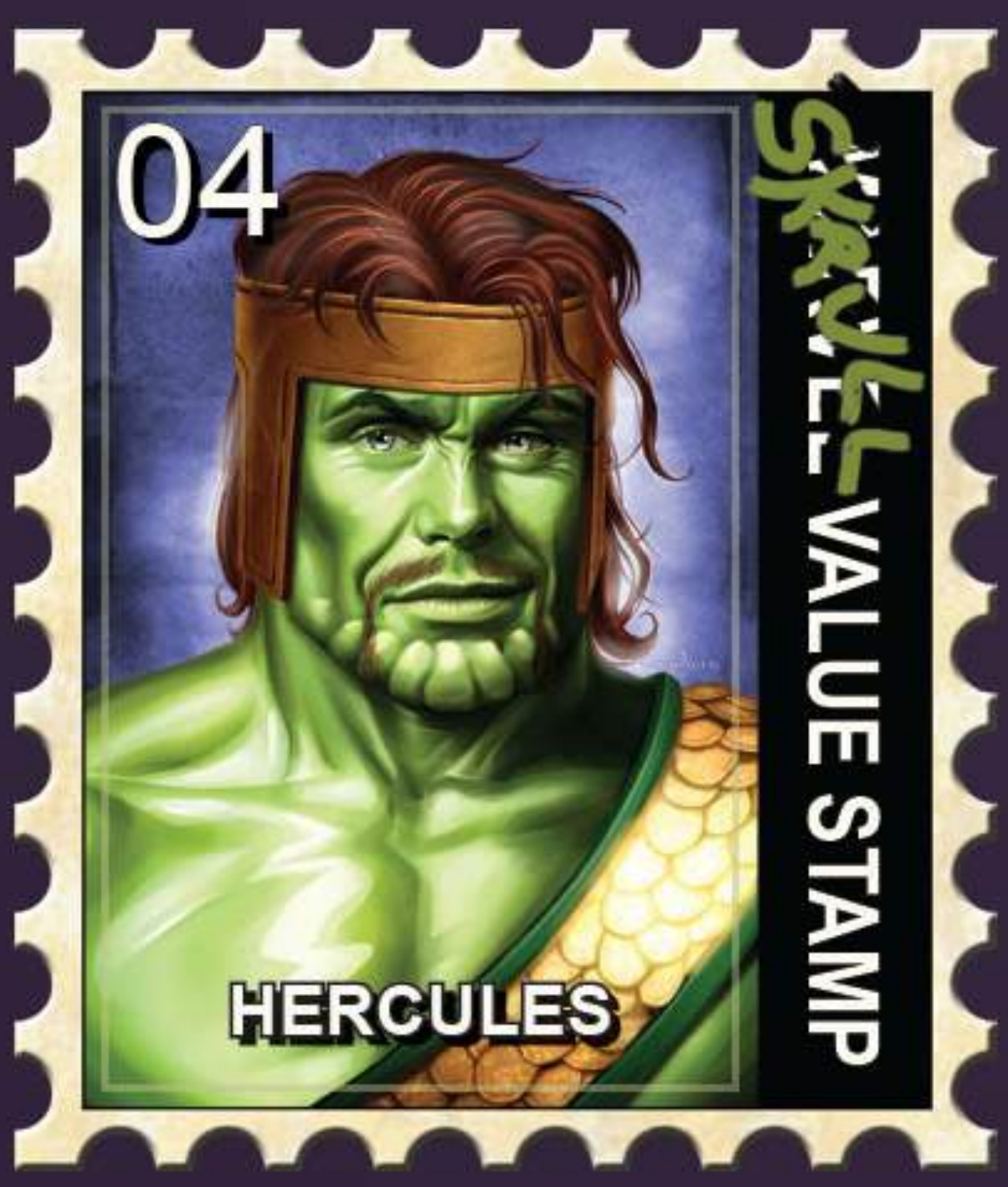
Did you get assigned all these portraits or did you get to lobby for any characters to be included?

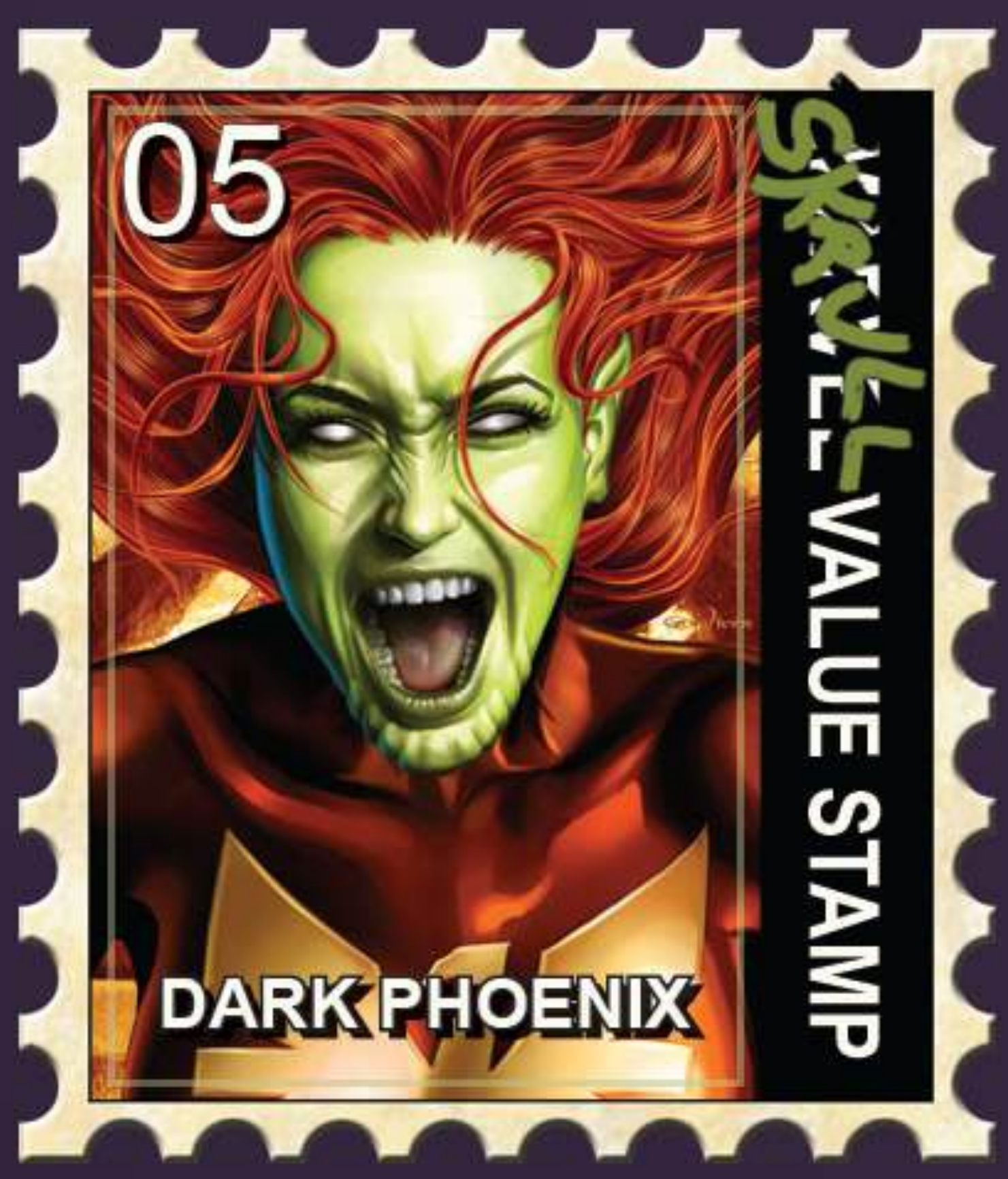
Most of the characters were assigned by my buds at Marvel Comics. At First, they asked me to do just ten Skrulls: Hercules, Wolverine, Dark Phoenix, Hawkeye, Spider-Woman, Luke Cage, Iron Man, Storm, Spider-Man, and Captain America. Considering recent storylines, the last two Skrulls really gave me pause! I wrote to my editor at Marvel: "Are you guys sure you want to do these last two? People are going to riot in the freakin' streets when they see what you have done!" ...I don't think they cared much.

The Skrull images were to be released one after the other on Marvel.com as part of their "Who do you trust?" teasers. The deadline for all ten pieces of art was only 15 days!!! Typically, I spend about 4-5 days on a cover, so these images had to be completed very quickly at 1.5 days per painting. There was no time to waste, so I got started on the characters with the idea that they would get more "Skrully" as I went on; Hercules, Wolverine, and Hawkeye lean more towards the human side of the Hero/Skrull Hybrid. (In fact, some girls think Hercules/Skrull is "hot".) By the









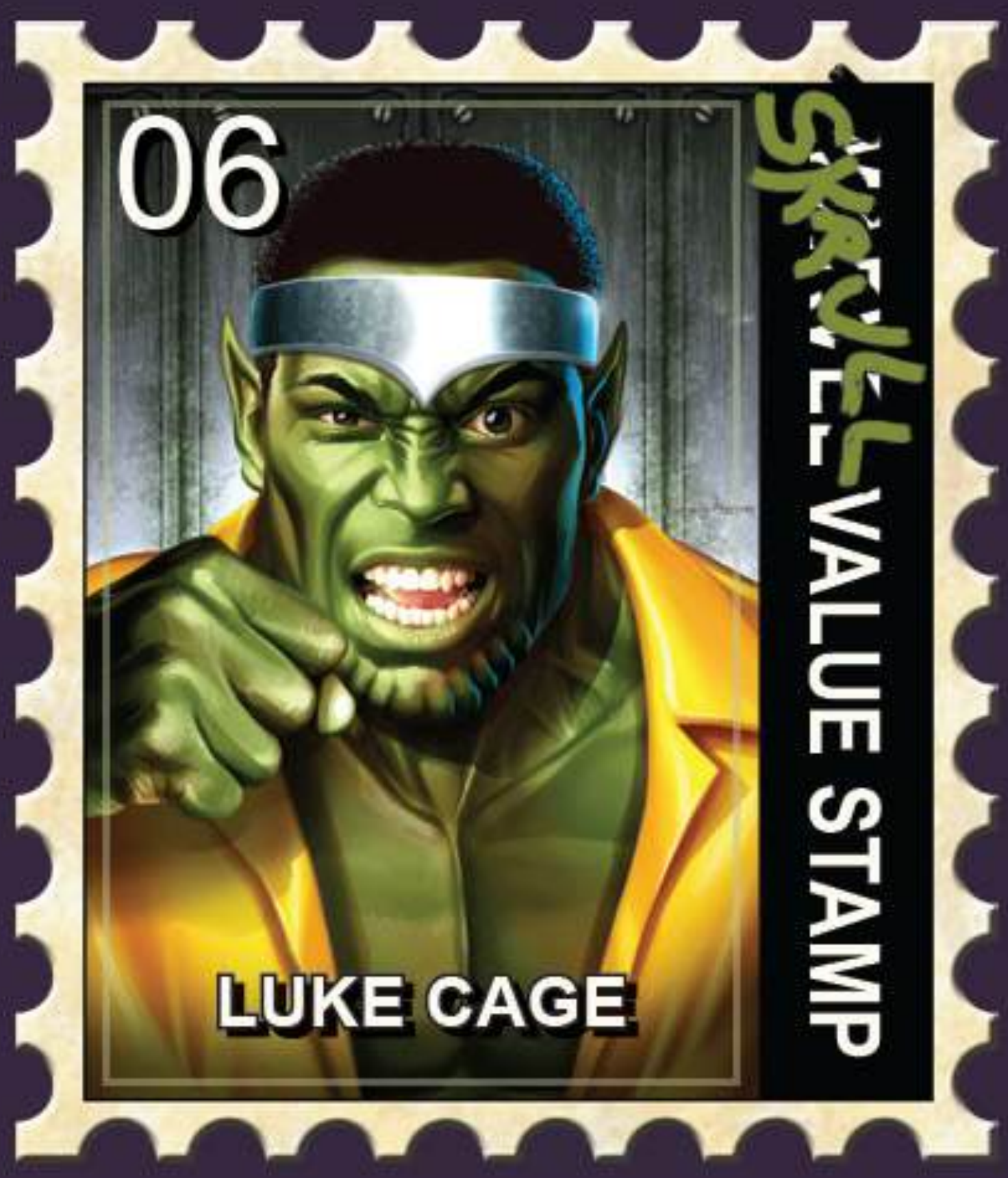
You come up with the idea and it kind of takes on a life of it's own, and God bless it, it turns into this other thing. I feel myself just overwhelmed with gratitude towards my peers, towards my collaborators, my editors, and the people who bought the book, man. They just dove in and they're just enjoying the crap out of it. Everyday I wake up, there's emails and posts on the MySpace page or on the boards just talking about Skrulls, making Skrull jokes, wondering who is a Skrull. It's crazy.

SPOTLIGHT: Going back to the origins of this idea, do you remember the moment when you thought, "Hmmm...Skrulls!?"

BRIAN: Yeah. I remember I was working on *Alias* and I had just finished doing something similar with the Purple Man. [*A semi-obscure villain foil from Daredevil who could manipulate the actions of others — Ed.*] And by that I mean, taking a character like the Purple Man that is not always treated as seriously and using them in an appropriately sinister way. When I was a kid reading about Purple Man, I was going "Man, that is scary as hell!" I mean, if you really used the Purple Man seriously, that would be the scariest thing you ever saw!

So I've thought that about the Skrulls as well, and they've come close a couple of times in other stories like the Kree/Skrull War, and the mythology of them has been built up over the years. But instead of looking at them with their little ray guns, let's go back to their *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* origin and really get in there.

We're in a post-Cold War world, but now post-9/11, there's a different kind of fear in the world. We get on a plane we don't know who's who. You know, you can't help it. And I thought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SKRULL
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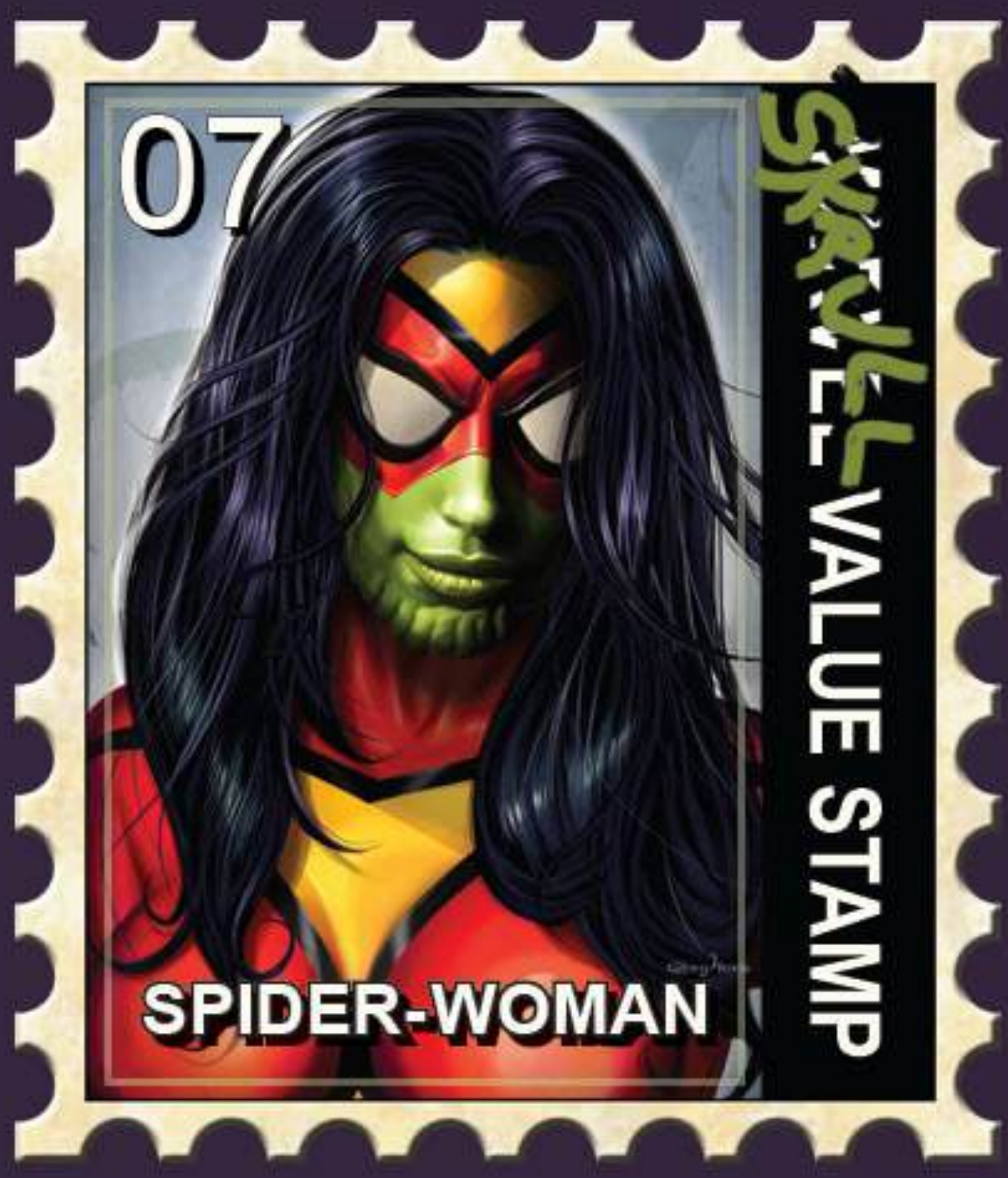
LUKE CAGE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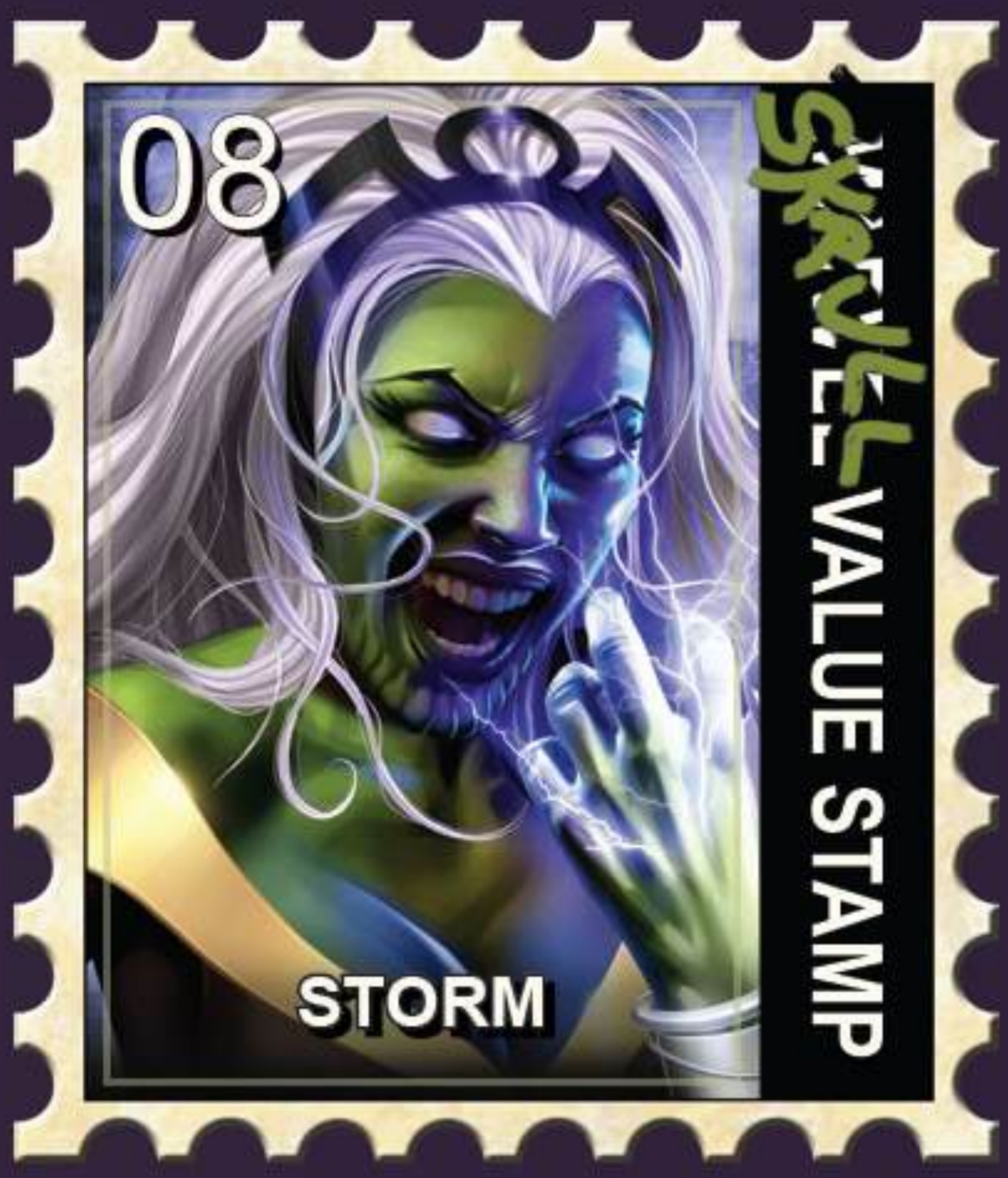
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SKRULL
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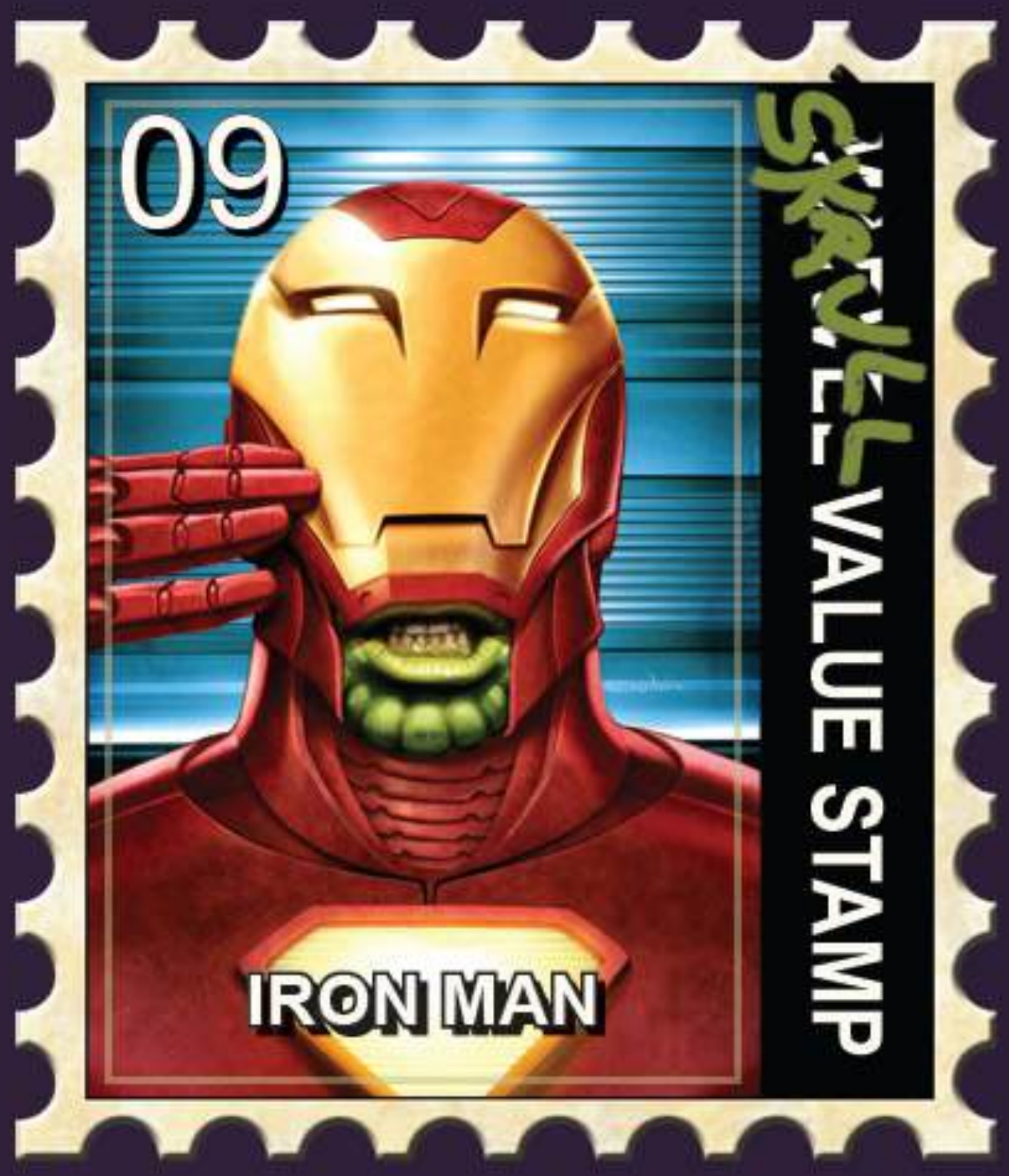
STORM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SKRULL
VALUE STAMP
IRON MAN

time I got to Storm and Iron Man they are starting to look really freaky and unpleasant!

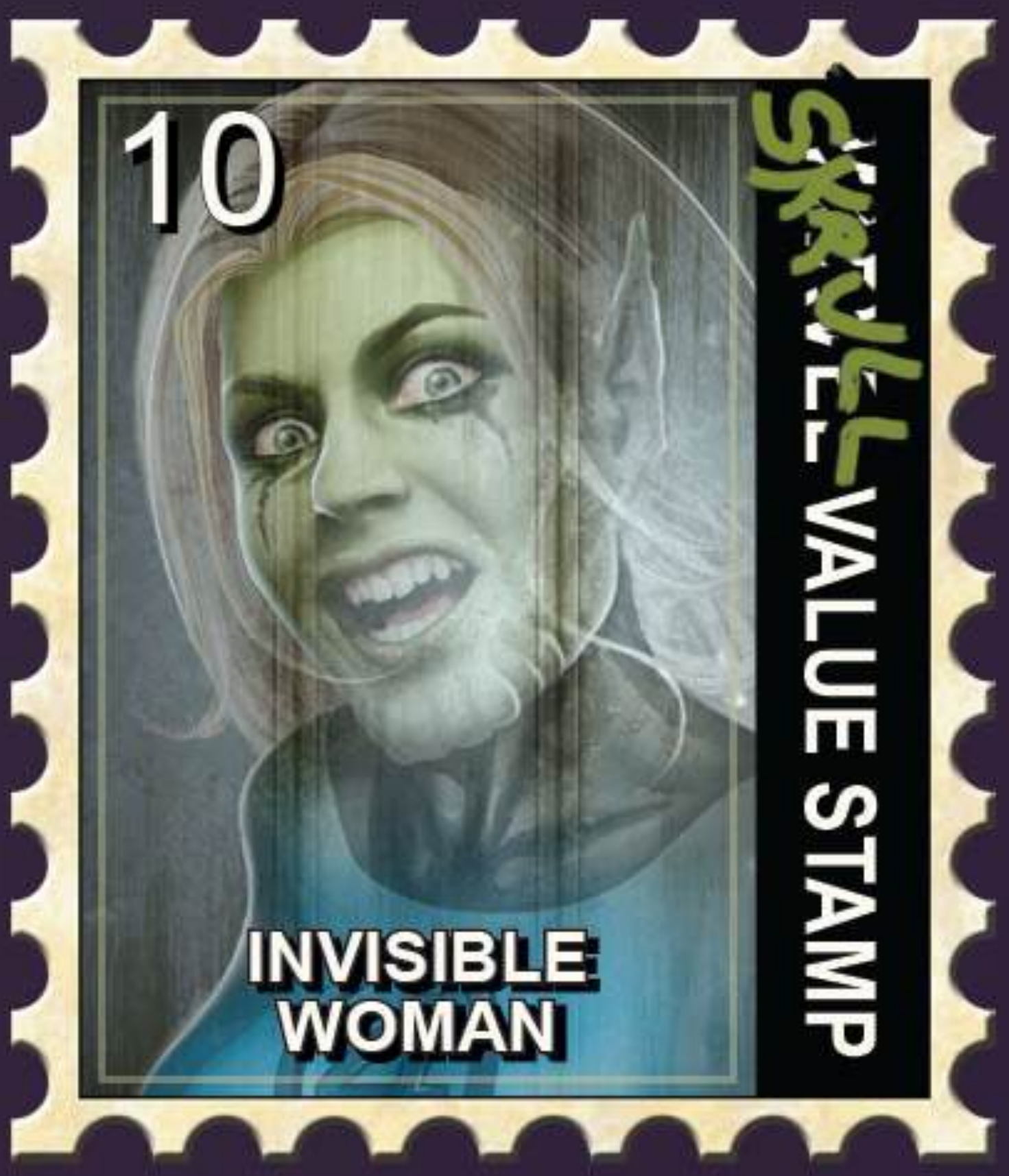
As I was finishing up the first batch, I decided to lobby for Nick Fury (at the behest of one of my forum members and also because I think Fury has been acting shady the last couple of years). And the next thing you know, there are four more Skrulls: Invisible Woman, YellowJacket, Doctor Doom, and Nick Fury! These last four are *really* creepy looking. Spider-Man and Captain America were held back as the last two reveals given out to mainstream media like Entertainment Weekly, etc.

Which characters did you want to do that you weren't able to do?

I wanted to do a Skrull version of Aunt May and Jarvis, but some fool stopped me! I requested Emma Frost near the end, but I think they were all Skrulled-out by that time! At the beginning we were actually going to do the original, non-Dark Phoenix and the black costumed Spider-Man, but those were axed before we officially started.

Which of these is your favorite and why?

Invisible Woman and Captain America tie as my favorites. Some people are actually repulsed when they see Sue for the first time; she is really disturbing to look at, and people will actually lean back away from the artwork. That means I did my job! Cap is great too because he is the only one that is a full-on Skrull, and I decided to put his hands on his head like maybe the Skrull just can't stand being such a goodie two shoes...it looks like he is having a real mental dilemma!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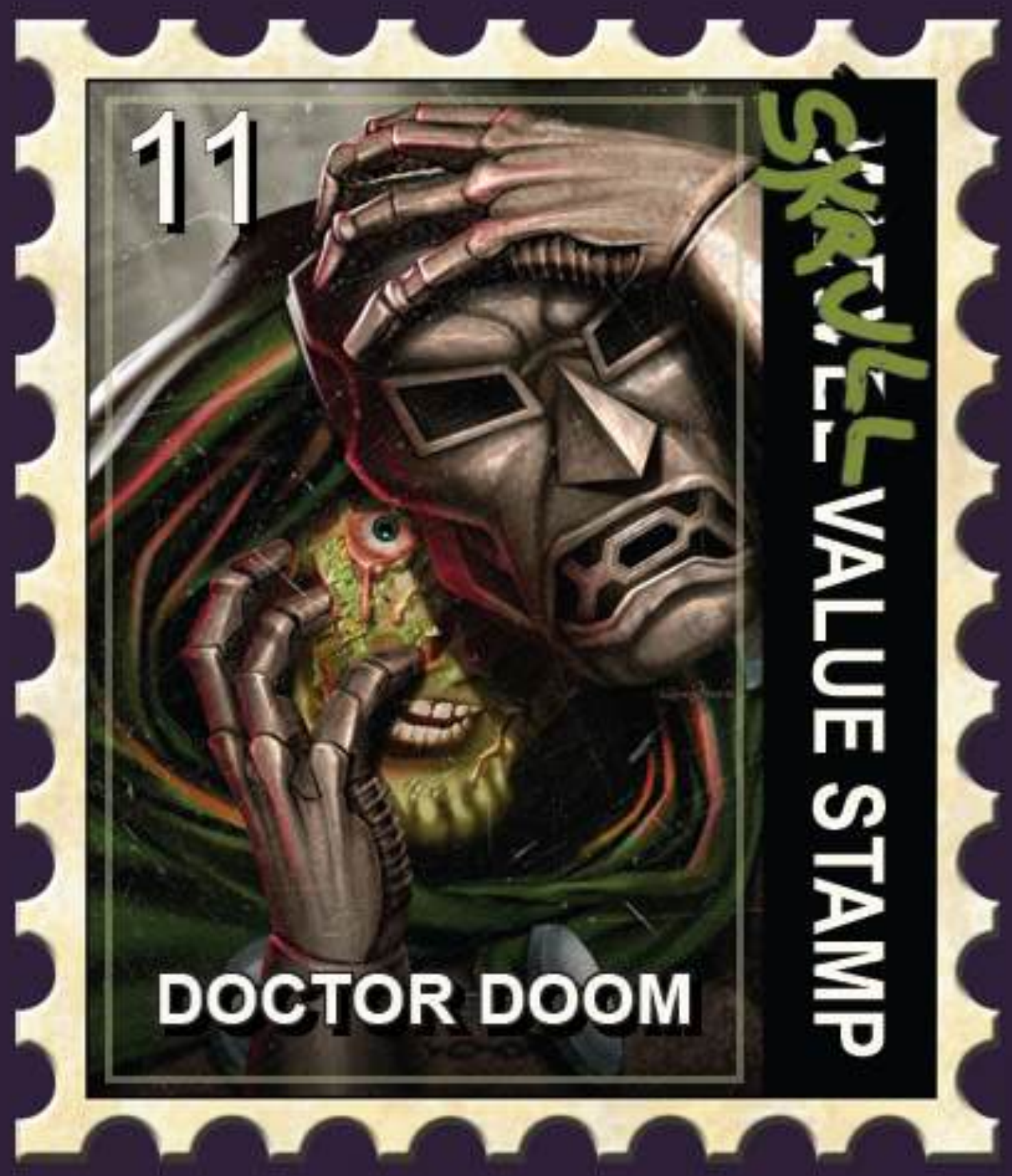
INVISIBLE WOMAN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SKRULL
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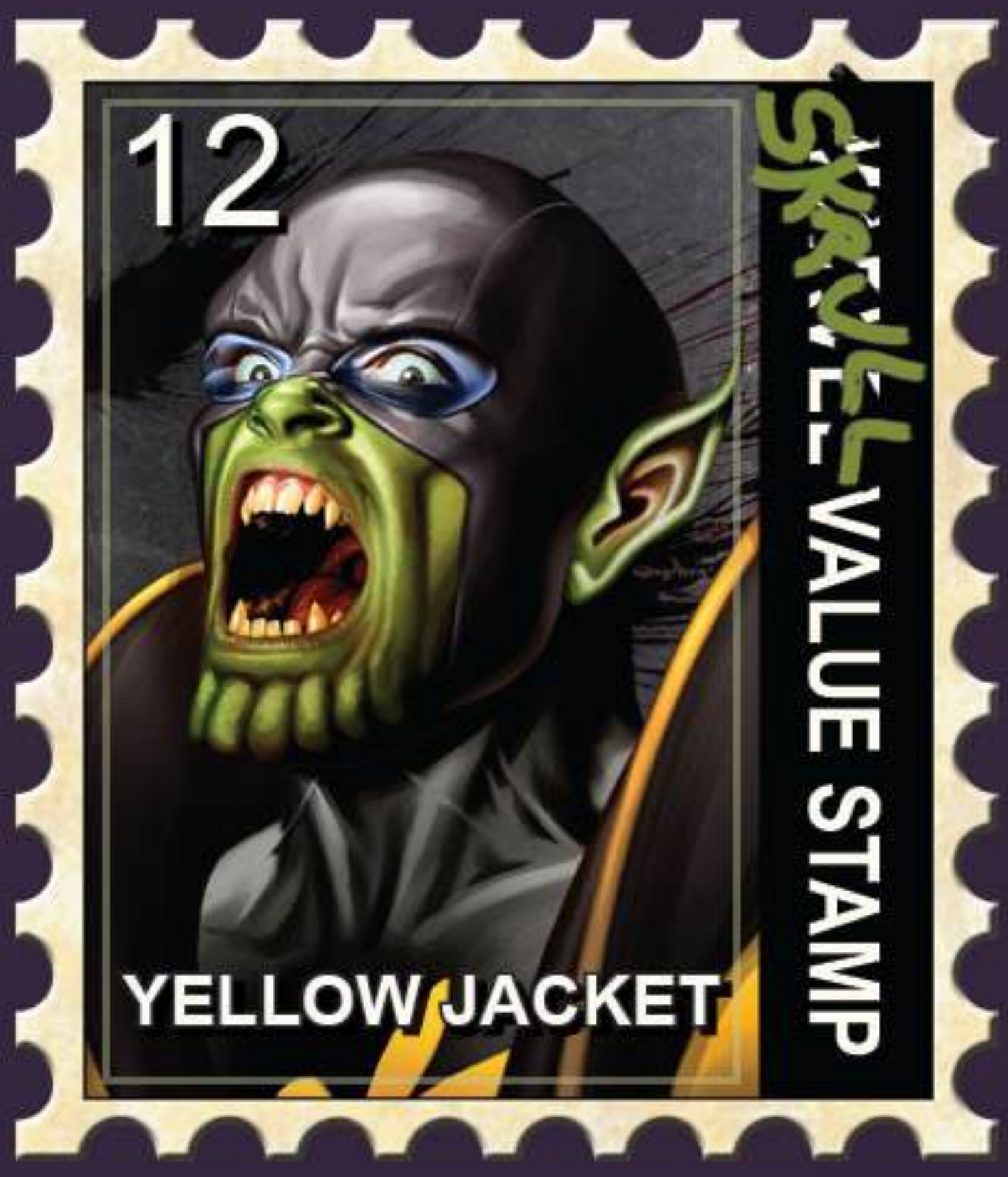
DOCTOR DOOM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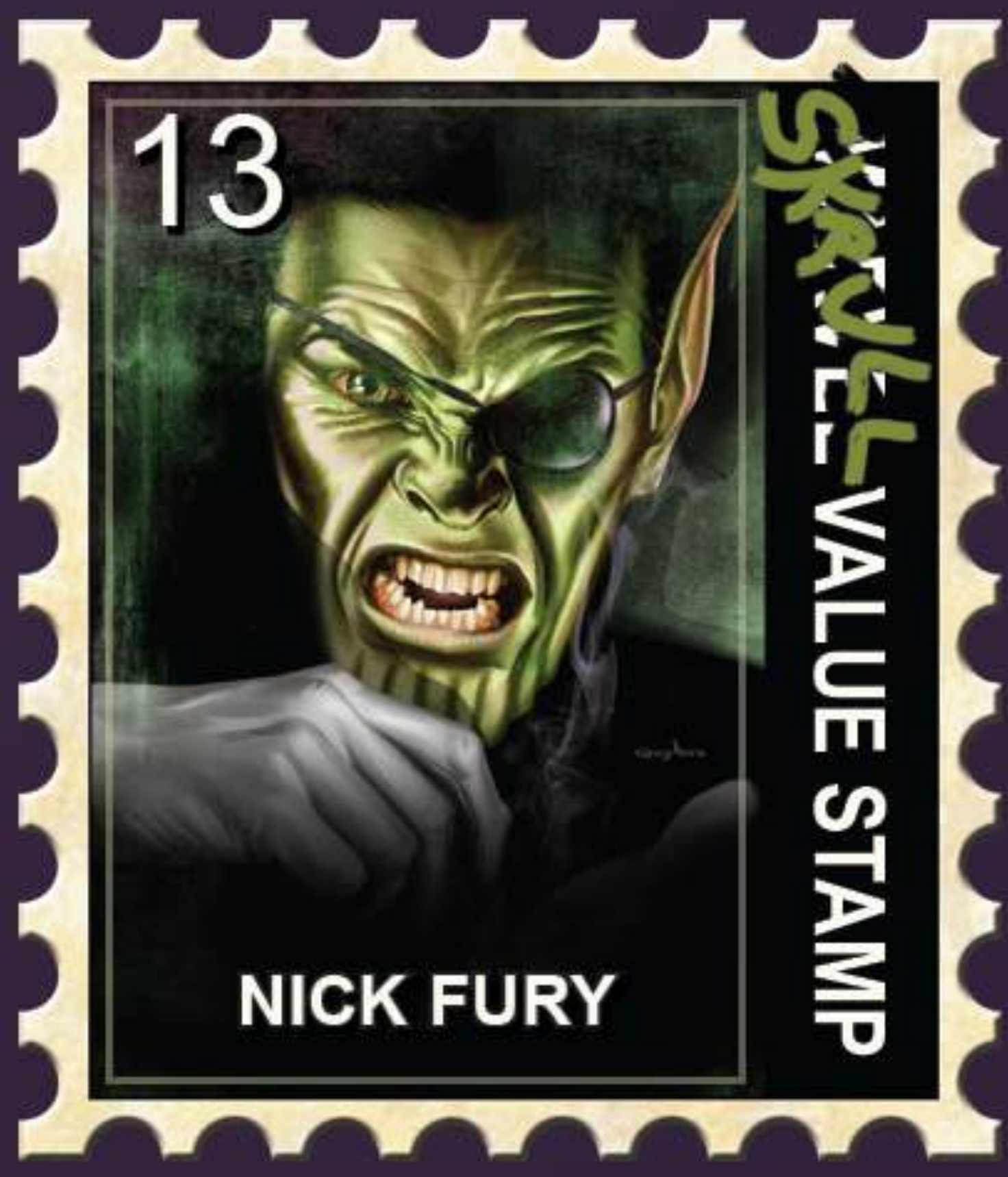
YELLOWJACKET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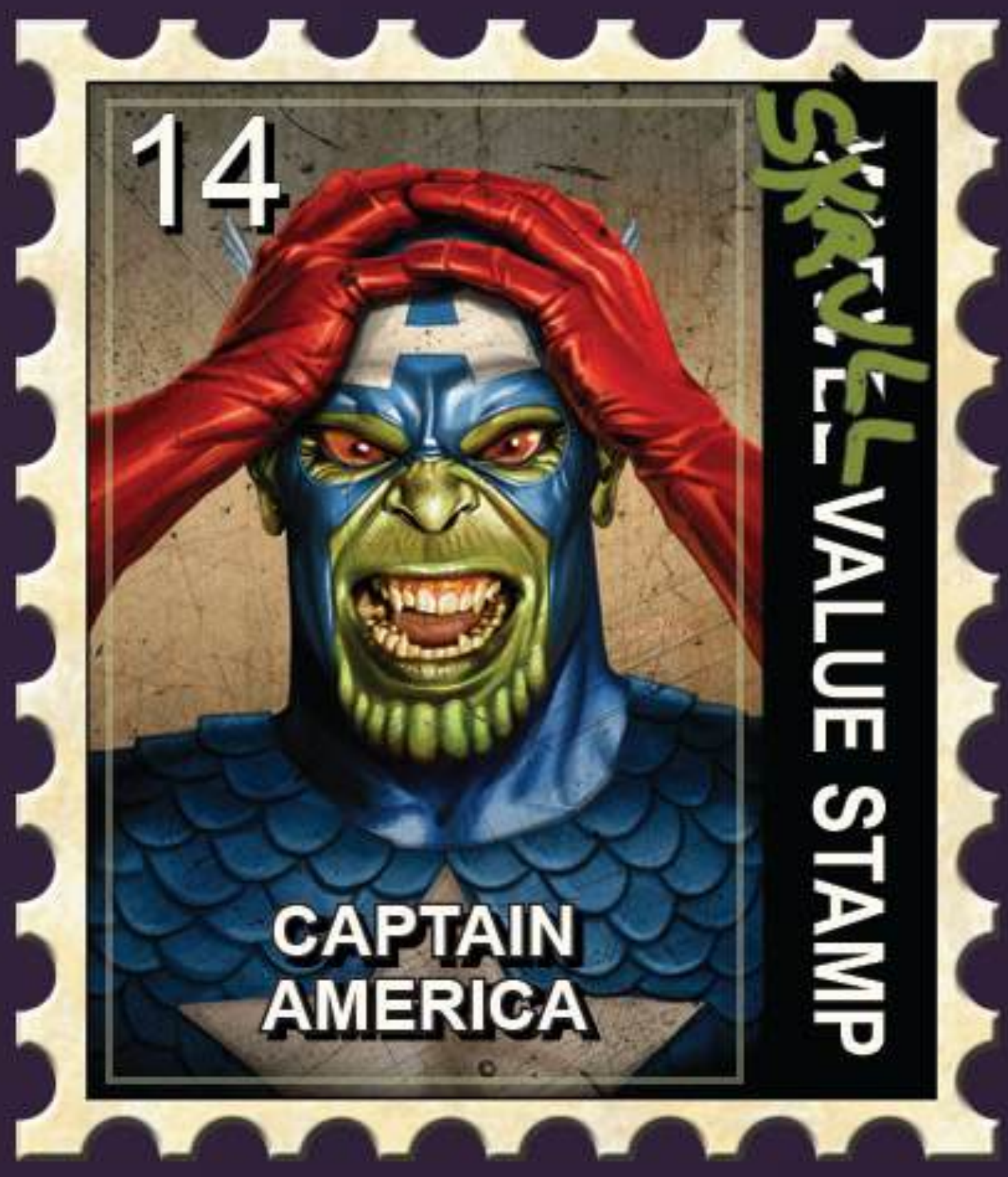
NICK FURY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SKRULL
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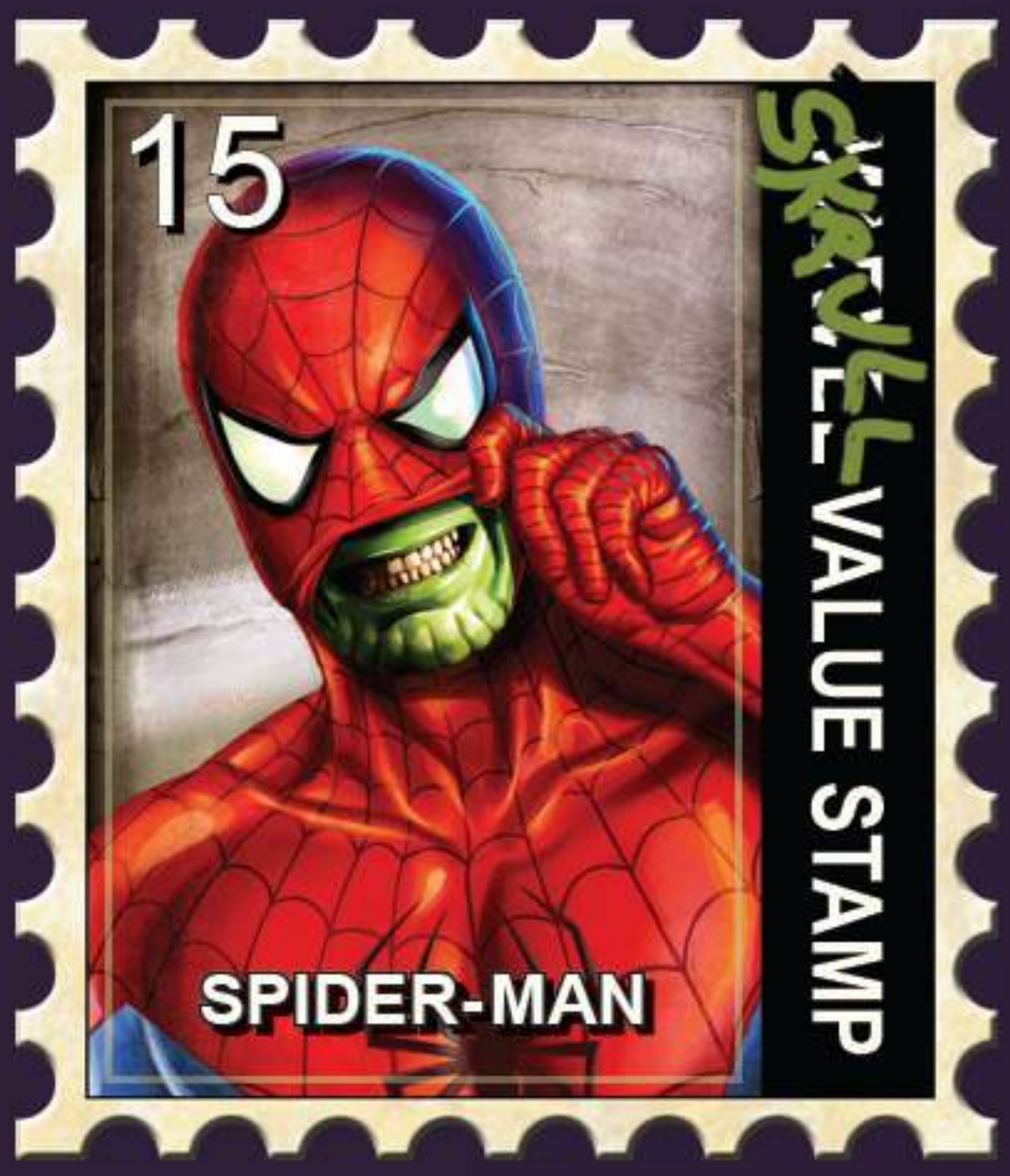
CAPTAIN AMERICA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SKRULL
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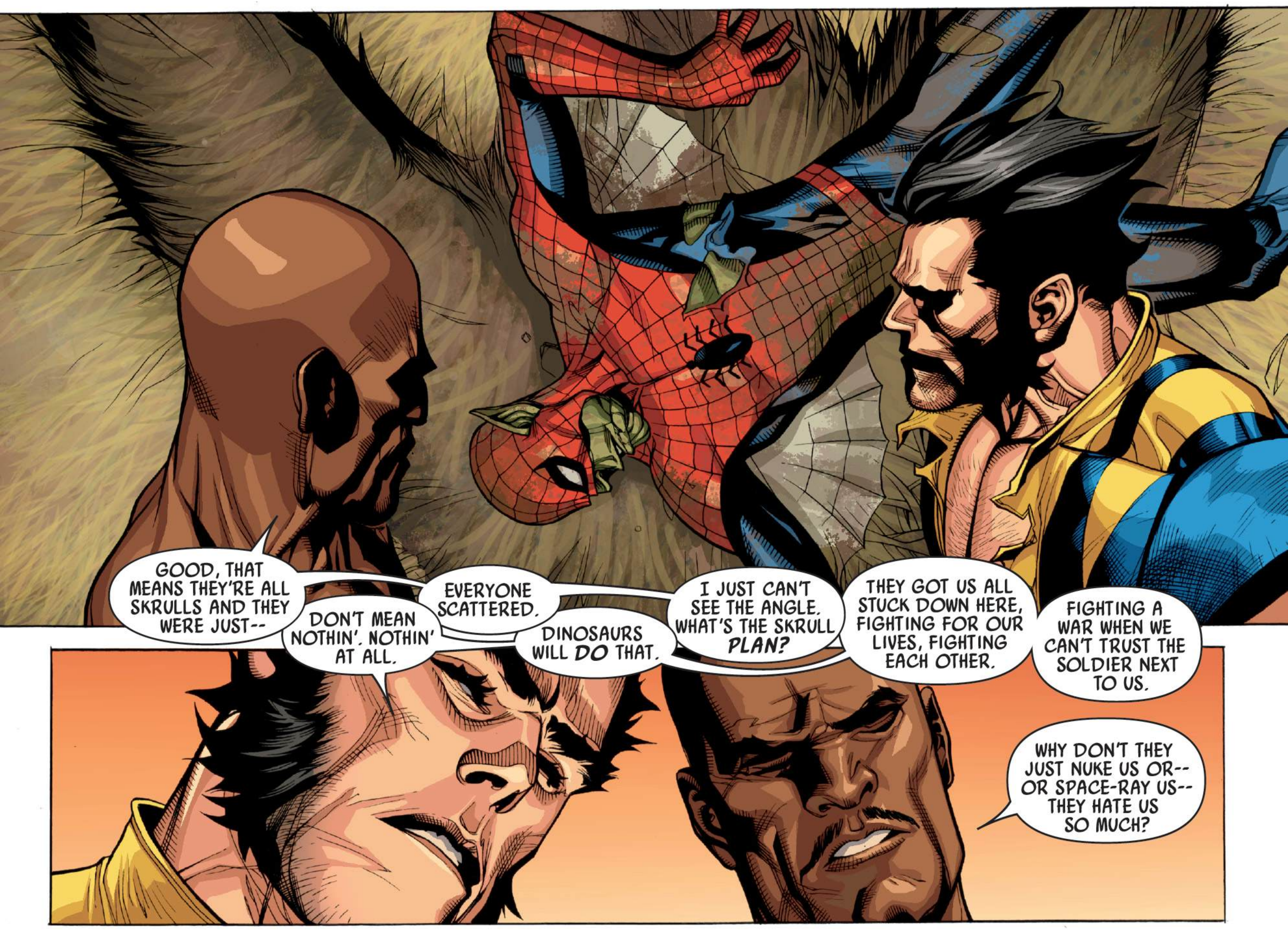
SPIDER-MAN


GOOD, THAT MEANS THEY'RE ALL SKRULLS AND THEY WERE JUST--
DON'T MEAN NOTHIN'. NOTHIN' AT ALL.
EVERYONE SCATTERED.
DINOSAURS WILL *DO* THAT.
I JUST CAN'T SEE THE ANGLE. WHAT'S THE SKRULL *PLAN?*
THEY GOT US ALL STUCK DOWN HERE, FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES, FIGHTING EACH OTHER.
FIGHTING A WAR WHEN WE CAN'T TRUST THE SOLDIER NEXT TO US.
WHY DON'T THEY JUST NUKE US OR-- OR SPACE-RAY US-- THEY HATE US SO MUCH?

> **"...instead of looking at them with their little ray guns, let's go back to their *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* origin and really get in there."**
>
> — Brian Bendis on revisiting the skrulls

there was something there. And I did, I said to Tom Brevoort, our editor, we need to use the Skrulls, but not in the normal way, not the way they've been done before. And I mentioned *Star Trek*, about how they recast the Klingons. In the TV show they were goofy, but in the movies they were scarier. This was pre-*Battlestar Galatica*, but they're definitely in the same mindset with how they treat their Cylons

We kind of had to decide early on who the Skrulls were impersonating and kind of keep it to ourselves. Some of the artists we didn't even tell just because this kind of thing leaks so fast. They tell their girlfriend, the girlfriend says something at a party and *boom*, it's out there and once it's out there, it's all ruined. It's been about four and a half years we've been working on this.

SPOTLIGHT: Was Spider-Woman your first targeted Skrull?

BRIAN: Yeah. That was locked down. It was funny because no one (at Marvel) cared about her. That is what got her on the Avengers, really, back when I first pitched *Avengers* and Mark Millar and I were going back and forth on who would be writing it. It was like Spider-Man and Wolverine and all these all-stars. And then there's Spider-Woman. I remember everyone going, "Nobody cares about her!" And I'm like, "Oh I've got something cool planned for her." (*Laughter.*) It had to be a character that wasn't tied to a lot of stuff, that kind of thing.

SPOTLIGHT: Absolutely. She's the kind of character whose lack of history and usage would be an asset for the narrative. You know, I think people are going to really enjoy going back and rereading all this stuff now, you know?

BRIAN: Yeah, two things are going on here that I'm immensely proud of. First, the rereading factor. I get very neurotic about people buying the books, overly so, and this is a grand opportunity for me to feel better about that by giving you something to reread. Not for s[redacted]s and giggles. You can really reread it now with a different context. For me personally, that just makes me feel better about people buying the books. And second, the way these tie-ins are being handled, how they're flipping over all of the cards: like in *New Avengers* and *Mighty Avengers*, telling the stories from so many different angles by the author of the event itself is genuinely unique and I can't think of any time it's ever been done before. If you can, please tell me! I'd love to read it. But I can't think of when that's been done. And coming up with a genuinely unique experience in major comics is always exciting and not easy to do. These things have been around for about a century now.

SPOTLIGHT: Were there any characters on your list that you really wanted that you had to give up on recasting as a Skrull?

BRIAN: There was a couple that I had locked in, but when the story came to its fruition, we actually didn't need them. I was very much of the "less is more" feeling, that the fewer Skrulls the better. And then when we got to them there was like one or two characters that I did have the ability to "Skrull out," but when we got there, I thought, "Well, they don't further the plot, they're just repeating beats from other characters."

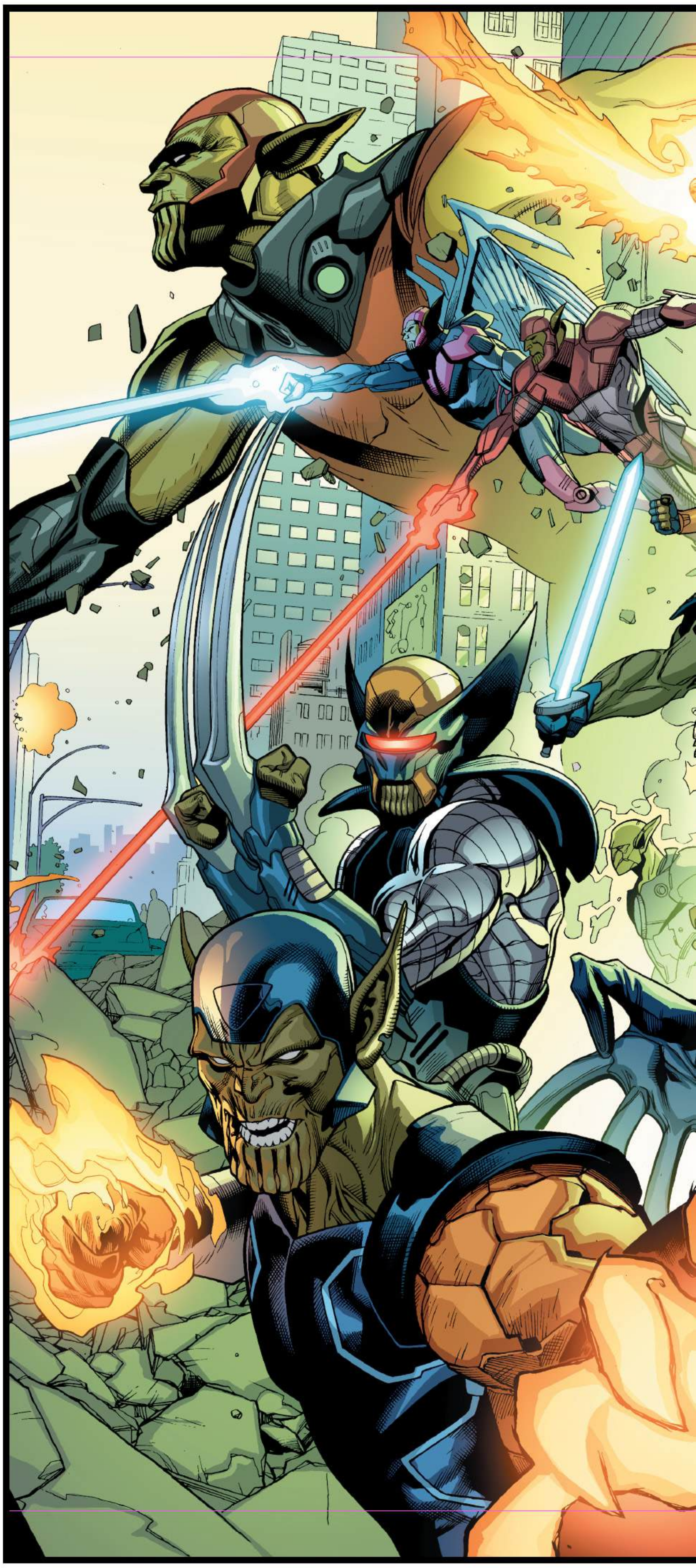
You know you can plan this to death, but I knew there were certain characters that I couldn't do it to; it would just be ridiculous to even try.

SPOTLIGHT: I'd like to talk about a scene in the second issue of *SI* It's a masterfully executed scene and it goes into trying to figure out your sense of long-range planning on this. It's the scene with Clint Barton, in his guise as Ronin, seeing Mockingbird and trying to get a feel for if that's who she really is. The emotional context of that scene was amplified in a big, big way by the fact that Clint is hidden behind the Ronin mask, which is totally not familiar to Mockingbird. Ronin is somebody that she doesn't recognize, but behind the mask is the love of her life.

So it goes back to all the hubbub about Clint Barton forsaking his Hawkeye identity and taking on Ronin, and all the grief you got about that. If Clint had been in his Hawkeye costume, that emotional context wouldn't have been as killer as it was. Was that one of the main factors behind having Clint become Ronin, so you could lay the groundwork for this very scene in Secret Invasion? I mean, this was a cornerstone scene. It seems like something you would have wanted to plan for.

BRIAN: You know…you get to that scene and it's decision time. We had that scene planned for a very long time and when you sit down to write it, you have Mockingbird and Clint, and that mask is very, very interesting. That mask…and in a world *full* of masks, a mask being interesting is really exciting. Clint not taking off the mask until the moment that he does, that mask, what it represents, all that…it's just *great* business dramatically.

SPOTLIGHT: Kudos on a great scene. Took me back to my *West Coast Avengers* days, big time! The other character that I think you've created isn't really a character at all, but it's this sense of paranoia that you've built up and been milking for so long and is now omnipresent in the Secret Invasion titles. It's that invisible character in the room. For instance, you can see in *SI #2* in the simple exchange between Ms. Marvel and Iron Man when they reach that Savage Land laboratory. Tony says to leave him behind and Carol doesn't want to let him out of her sight. It's this paranoia that



THE INVASION IS ON! Super-Skrulls spill out of their ship! (Say that ten times fast…and hope you make it out alive! Art from *SI #2*.)

informs every decision the characters are making.

BRIAN: I am constantly reminding the artists about how impossible these situations are and how there may be no right answer and how heavy every decision is that is being made. Even in the scene just before the Mockingbird scene, where Luke and Wolverine are talking it out, even the decision to *have* that conversation is a heavy thing. It's total paranoia and hopefully the idea is that it will build into some of the larger set pieces that are coming up, so it will really feel like letting off steam in a big, big way. When you've been dealing with this level of crazy, it's really gotta be a gratifying fight scene when you go from battle to battle.

SPOTLIGHT: That battle scene with the Super-Skrulls in *Secret Invasion #2-3* was nuts! I saw the composite Super-Skrulls I never would have dreamed of seeing!

BRIAN: That's actually something that's been in my head for a while. Frank Cho was someone who was involved with some behind the scene stuff there. And he had some images in his head that he was very generous to let us take as well, but I took it even further with these different power sets that you gotta get an extra handbook to even appreciate. Or be a nerd on the level of us! (*Laughter.*)

SPOTLIGHT: Right. I liked the Eternals Super-Skrull. He was my favorite.

BRIAN: I'm a big fan of the Power Pack one. (*Laughter.*)

SPOTLIGHT: There's another big event inside *Secret Invasion* and that is the return of Nick Fury, who has been on the sidelines since *Secret War*. How long have you been hankering to unleash him back onto the scene?

BRIAN: Oh, probably from the minute we put him in the box! We put him away for a couple of good reasons, from *Secret War* until now. At the time that we put him away, he was launching plot after after plot after plot, and it was really getting to be a bit much. So it was a good idea to put him away, but always with the feeling that he'd come back. But when he comes back, it's got to be with a legitimate new agenda.

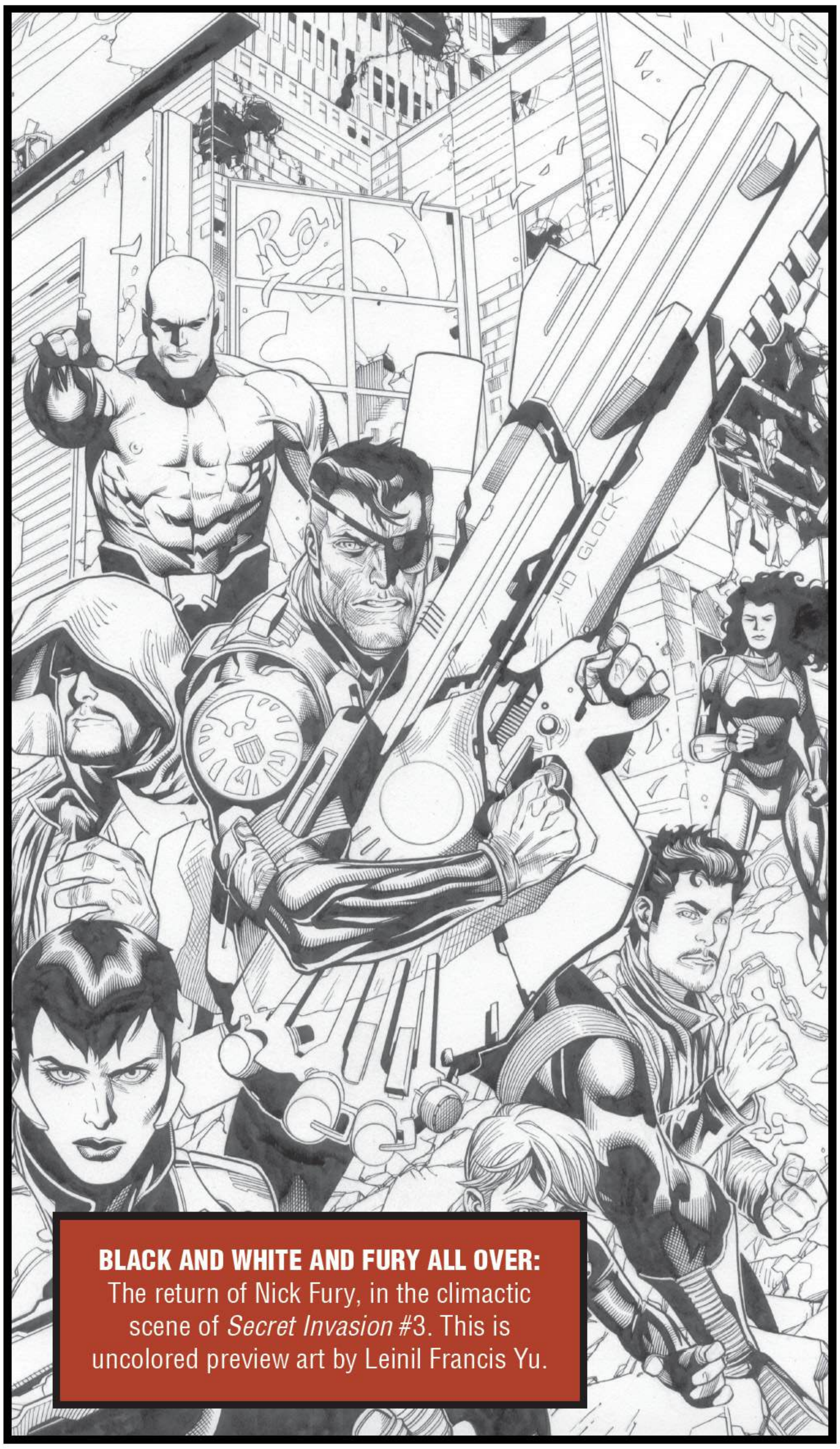
SPOTLIGHT: Wiping out Skrulls is definitely a legitimate agenda! One of the things that'll be a fun game for people to play is, "When did our favorite heroes get kidnapped?"

BRIAN: Well that's funny you mentioned that because you're going to find out *exactly* those moments. There are issues of *New Avengers* and *Mighty Avengers* dedicated very specifically to the exact moment that Spider-Woman got switched out. And we look back at when she told Captain America her new origin, in *New Avengers #14-15*, and we get to see exactly what was true and what was not true. And then there's a whole issue dedicated to Hank Pym where we get to find out what happened with him.

SPOTLIGHT: Those are some nice teasers!

BRIAN: I'll give you a perfect example of something I'm very excited about. You know that scene in *Mighty Avengers* where Hank gave Janet a new serum? Well you didn't know he was a Skrull when he did that. Go back and read it, and now you know he's a Skrull…that's the scariest thing that could happen in the whole book. It was just a cute little scene between a couple of characters that used to be married, but now there's a lot more going on there.

You can say that again! SECRET INVASION continues to surprise readers in its third issue, on sale the same day this issue of Marvel Spotlight hits stands…so go get it before it sells out!



BLACK AND WHITE AND FURY ALL OVER: The return of Nick Fury, in the climactic scene of *Secret Invasion* #3. This is uncolored preview art by Leinil Francis Yu.

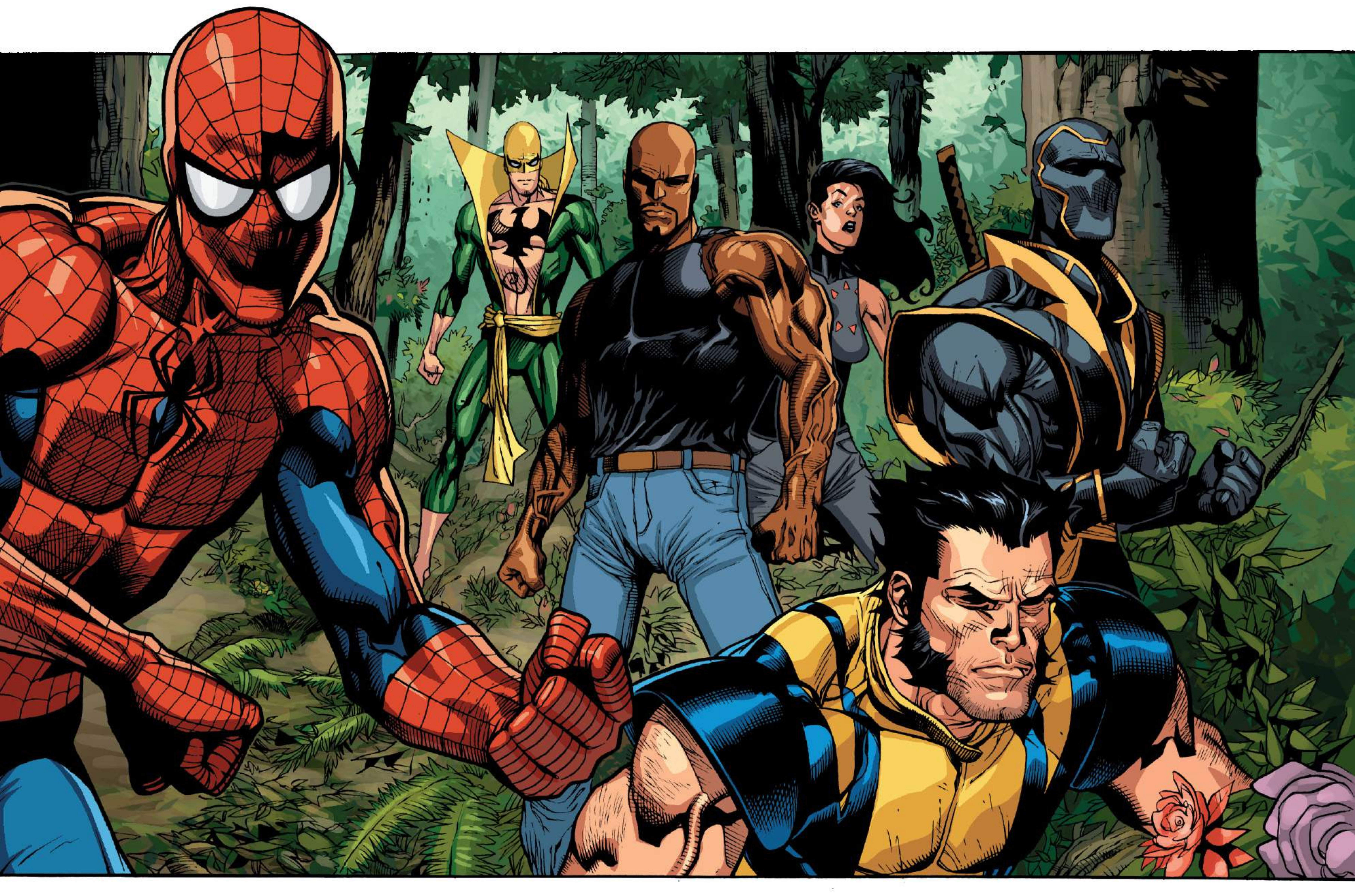
AN INVASION BY DESIGN

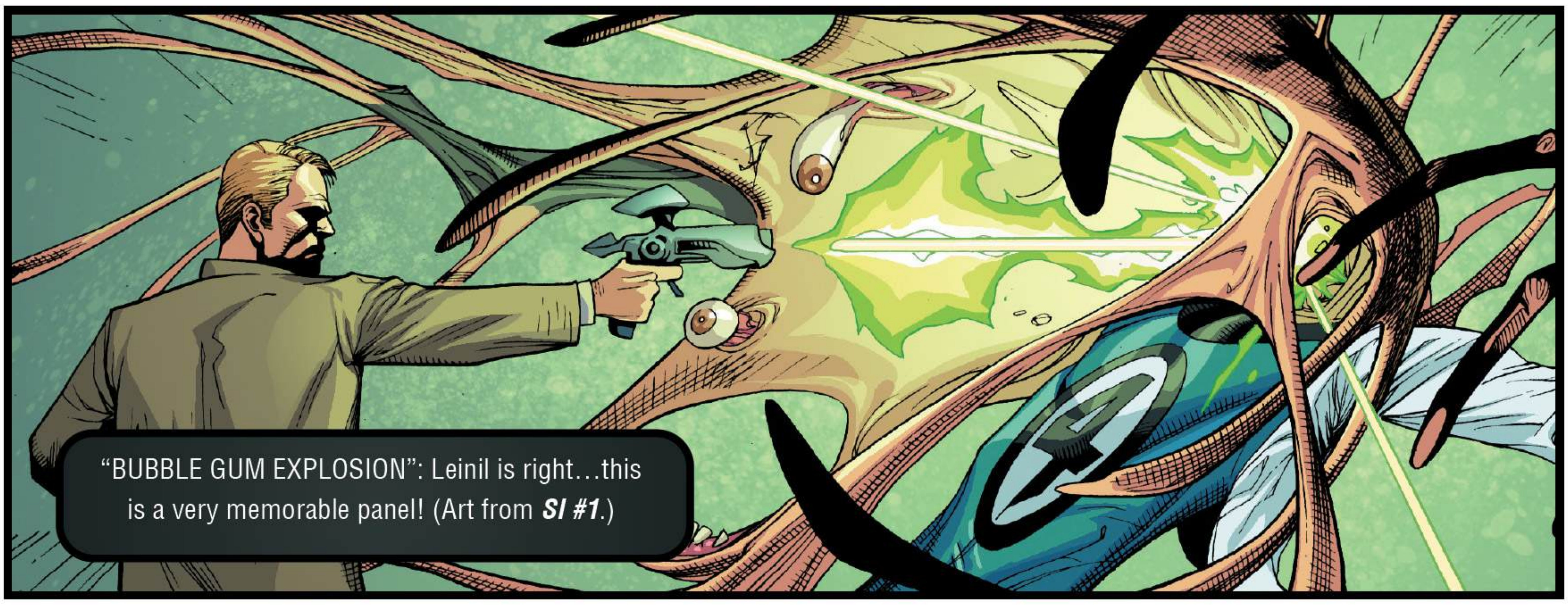
Leinil Francis Yu Draws Up Marvel's Skrull Infiltration

By Dugan Trodglen

Artist Leinil Francis Yu

Brian Michel Bendis first laid the groundwork for *Secret Invasion* all the way back in *New Avengers #1*, and ever since issue #26, of that series, artist Leinil Francis Yu has been right there with him. It was during Leinil's first story, "Revolution," that the conspiracy at the heart of Bendis' run was revealed and Leinil's indelible image of a dead Elektra, revealed in the form of a treacherous Skrull, would launch the early stages of the *Secret Invasion*. His art on *New Avengers*, full of creepy paranoia, leads perfectly into *Secret Invasion*, and his entire run of twelve issues, along with *SI*, seamlessly blend into one sprawling, compelling story. Now that he is full-tilt into drawing *Secret Invasion*, *Spotlight* spoke with Leinil and discovered he is very much up to the task of bringing to life 2008's blockbuster story.





“BUBBLE GUM EXPLOSION”: Leinil is right…this is a very memorable panel! (Art from ***SI #1***.)

SPOTLIGHT: You’ve been in the comic art business for quite a while. What is it like to have achieved the level of attention you have received over the last couple of years, culminating in *Secret Invasion*?

LEINIL: I’ve always had high profile projects but to be doing ***the*** main Marvel event was actually such a huge surprise for me and I never expected it. It’s bizarre to be at the center of it all.

SPOTLIGHT: You had memorable runs on *Wolverine* and *X-Men* going on ten years ago. How would you say you have developed as an artist in that time?

LEINIL: I think I improved tremendously as I can’t stand looking at my work prior to *New X-Men Annual 2001.* [*The now-classic collaboration with Grant Morrison…told horizontally! — Ed.*] I have learned a lot throughout the years in different aspects of drawing — from anatomy, faces, backgrounds and storytelling. This helps immensely in the pace of my output, which is very important in comics.

SPOTLIGHT: What have you observed about the evolution of the industry and Marvel specifically in that time?

LEINIL: Honestly, as an artist, I’m pretty much isolated, and if you stay away from the comic book forums, you wouldn’t really know what goes on from the outside. And I’d say professionally, it’s about the same. It has always been a pleasant experience for me from the start, and things couldn’t be better for me being currently with Marvel. The readership had increased since I started out, so that is a great thing.

SPOTLIGHT: Did you work on *New Avengers #22*, the Luke Cage-centred *Civil War* tie-in, as a lead to your regular gig on the title?

LEINIL: I think that was my tryout of sorts (but I didn’t know it then) and luckily Marvel and Brian Bendis liked what I did.

SPOTLIGHT: You’ve obviously reached a comfort level with Bendis after doing several issues of *New Avengers* with him. Have you noticed him adapting his scripts as he has gotten to know you as a creative partner?

LEINIL: I know Bendis does tailor his scripts to play up his artist’s strengths and I thank him for that! That was quite obvious from the start. I was quite wary of being pigeonholed when we started out, but now, with ***Secret Invasion***, I am pretty much drawing everything from space stations to the kitchen sink, so I’m happy.

SPOTLIGHT: When did you find out there were Skrulls among the Avengers? And what was your reaction?

> “I NEVER ASK FOR PLOTS IN ADVANCE AS IT STRESSES ME OUT.”
>
> — ARTIST LEINIL YU

LEINIL: When Brian told me, he is always very generous with vital info about plot points. Honestly, I never saw the Elektra as a Skrull twist until I was about to draw it. Also, this may be a surprise to fans, but I never ask for plots in advance as it stresses me out. I also never read ahead that much as it would really weigh me down with too much information and anxiety over the immense workload ahead of me.

SPOTLIGHT: Paranoia had been a theme for virtually your entire run on *New Avengers* and into *Secret Invasion*, and you seem really good at visualizing it. It often feels like we are actually spying on the various scenes we are reading. Is this paranoia theme something you have in your mind as you have drawn this story and the issues leading up to it?

LEINIL: Definitely! My critics would argue that my characters look paranoid by default though! (***Laughter***.) Paranoia has been stressed by Bendis even in the midst of the ***New Avengers*** run. ***Secret Invasion*** has been in his mind for years now and everything is planned by the mighty Bendis.

SPOTLIGHT: Your first shot of the dead Elektra-Skrull is one of the most reproduced comic book images this side of Captain America lying dead on the courthouse stairs. Was it stressed

> “I THINK WE CAME UP WITH PRETTY AWESOME LOOKING, SCARY AND UPDATED SKRULLS.”
>
> — ARTIST LEINIL YU

to you that that splash had to be a home run?

LEINIL: Oh yes…and there is a happy accident with that issue. That shot was mighty important to Brian, and I drew the whole team staring at the dead-Elektra-Skrull. He wanted the impact shot on Elektra to be much greater and wanted me to zoom in on her and pretty much crop off the New Avengers. Luckily, he misnumbered the pages and only wrote 21 pages of script so adding the Elektra headshot was seamless. We now had two cool shots.

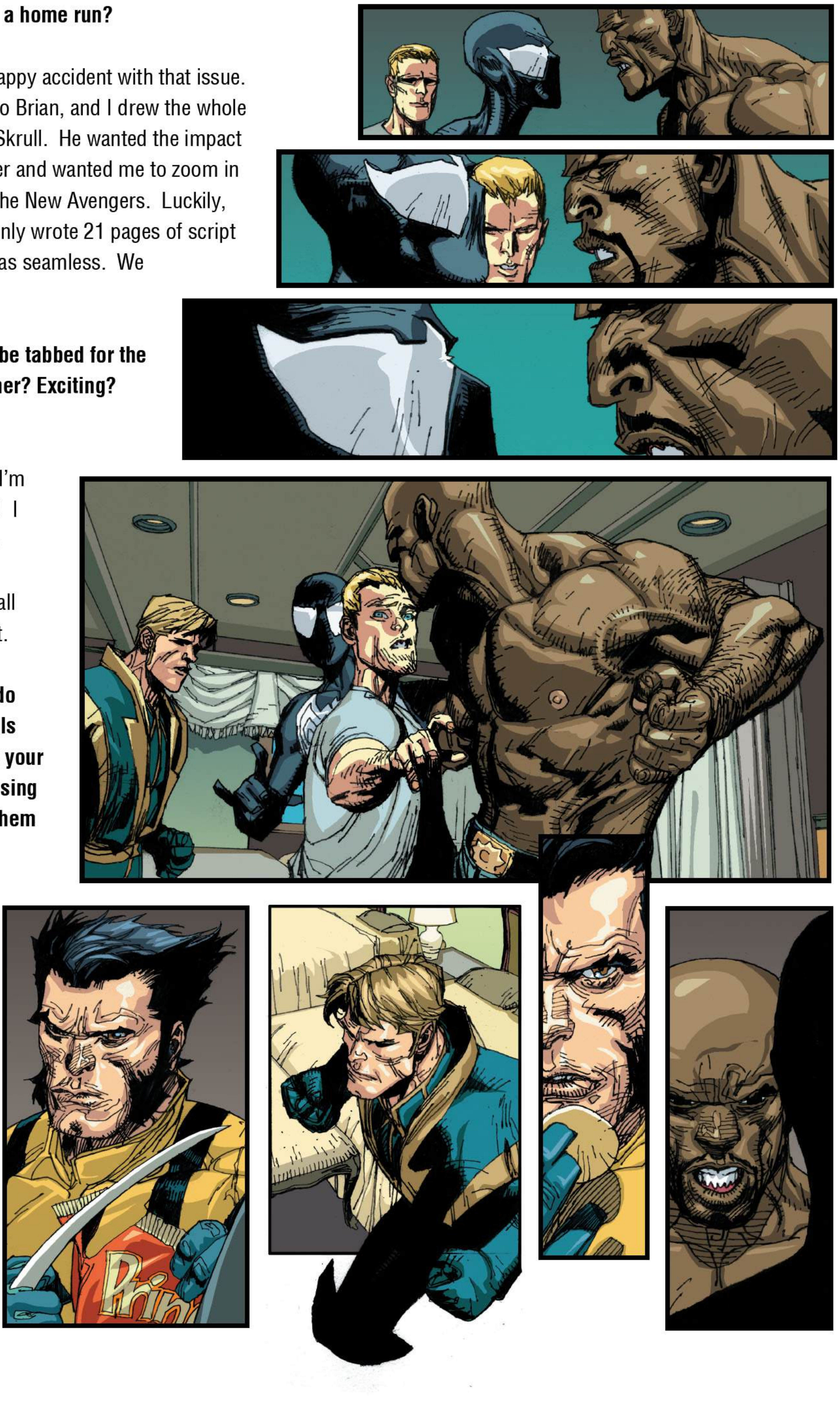
SPOTLIGHT: How does it feel to be tabbed for the big crossover event of the summer? Exciting? Nerve-wracking?

LEINIL: It is nerve-wracking, but I’m dealing with it quite well, I guess! I just didn’t over-excite myself into anxiety and just treated it as just another project… only with a small twist: as if my life depended on it.

SPOTLIGHT: You were asked to do a lot of design work on the Skrulls and their world. What went into your designs? How did you balance using what came before with making them new-looking and threatening?

LEINIL: Honestly, Marvel has been very accommodating and open with my designs and I’m starting to think that if I added a red clown nose to one of the Skrulls, they wouldn’t mind. Seriously, aside from the skull cap and the pointed shoulder blades, I’ve been running away with the designs. Video game and movie designs obviously creep in. And I think we came up with pretty awesome looking, scary and updated Skrulls.

SPOTLIGHT: Are you comfortable with large casts? (You seem to be, by the way!) What are the tricks of pulling off books with tons of characters?



PARANOIA: One or more of the Avengers is a Skrull…but all of them are paranoid! (Art from ***New Avengers #33***.)

LEINIL: Thumbnailing! I've been drawing straight on the 11x17 boards for years and I only "learned" the benefits of thumbnailing on a smaller paper. More than half of the work is done when you've laid out the page, fixed all the anatomy and faces along with all the basic elements. Finishing it off on the 11x17 board is all about detailing and tedious line work.

I honestly couldn't pull this off a year or two ago when I didn't have my thumbnail process in hand. Hey, we always learn new things!

SPOTLIGHT: Bendis gave you some good leeway on the battle scenes. Is this something you enjoy? It must have been especially fun to choreograph the old-school Marvel characters against the current versions. Any particular individual duels you were jazzed about drawing?

LEINIL: Brian actually has great fight directions going on and I always try to put them in. This makes me rely on his directions too much though. There are a lot of cool matchups on issue #2 and I enjoyed all of them! It's awesome to see two Spideys go at it.

SPOTLIGHT: How about the Super-Skrulls? That could either be an artist's dream, to make amalgams of classic teams and heroes into Skrulls, or a nightmare of complexity. Which was it for you?

LEINIL: OK, it wasn't as easy as I thought. I wanted them to have a homogenized, militaristic look where they may have different elements from a variety of characters while still looking like they are in the same team. I'd try to be coming up with different designs for future issues to emphasize their large numbers.

SPOTLIGHT: Did you have to do a lot of research for reference on the various Super-Skrulls? Which was your favorite?

LEINIL: I did a lot of research on the different teams since images on the Super-Skrulls were not easy to come by. I think the most popular one was the Fantastic Four Super-Skrull and I had to come up with the rest. I loved the Sinister Six Skrull and my X-Men Skrull.

SPOTLIGHT: I think the shot of Reed Richards being shot by that disruptor gun will go down as a defining visual from the series. Was it tricky to make that just right?

LEINIL: Glad you liked it! Actually this is one of the ***rare*** occasions that I asked them if I could ad lib a little. The original plot asked me to draw him like a puddle, or what a human being would look like if he had no skeleton. I figured, why not go crazy and go all out? I think the Reed Richards bubble gum explosion is pretty memorable and was fun to do.

SPOTLIGHT: Are you ready for something smaller scale or do you want to ride the momentum to another sprawling comic book?

LEINIL: I'm ready for whatever Marvel will ask of me. A short run on a single character hero wouldn't hurt of course, but I also don't want to develop "rust." I want to maintain my current level of output and not slow down too much. Bring it on!

Great attitude, Leinil! Thanks for speaking with us. We can't wait to see what incredible visuals you have in store for us over the rest of SECRET INVASION!

INSIDE THE INVASION TIE INS

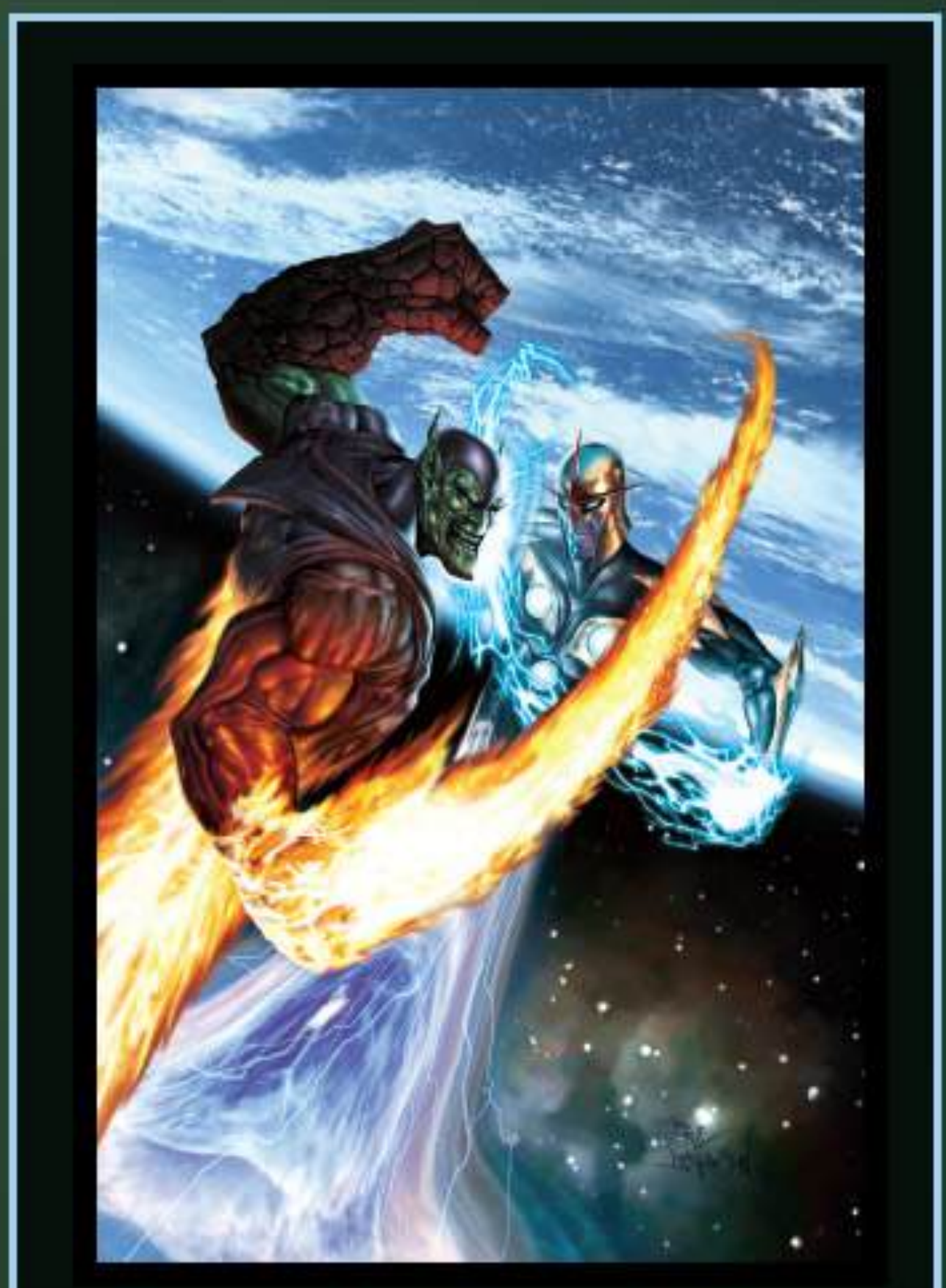
Nova #16-18
Guardians of the Galaxy #4-6

Writers: Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning
Artists: Paul Pelletier (***Guardians***) and Wellinton Alves (***Nova***)

WHAT IT IS

DAN AND ANDY: "Nova's involvement with the Secret Invasion is thrust upon him when he — the last centurion of the Nova Corps — finds himself at the top of the Skrull's cosmic hit list. Things are made even more complicated when he is forced to team up with Super-Skrull, and the pair form an uneasy alliance as they battle their way to Earth both engaged on very personal missions.

The Guardians of the Galaxy get swept up in raging paranoia when a Skrull infiltration of their HQ, Knowhere (which happens to be the decapitated head of a Celestial) is discovered. During an emergency lock down of the base, the newly formed team comes under huge pressure and tensions flare and cracks in the squad develop. Can any of them be trusted? How far has the infiltration really gone? And what do the Skrulls want with the decapitated head of a Celestial?"

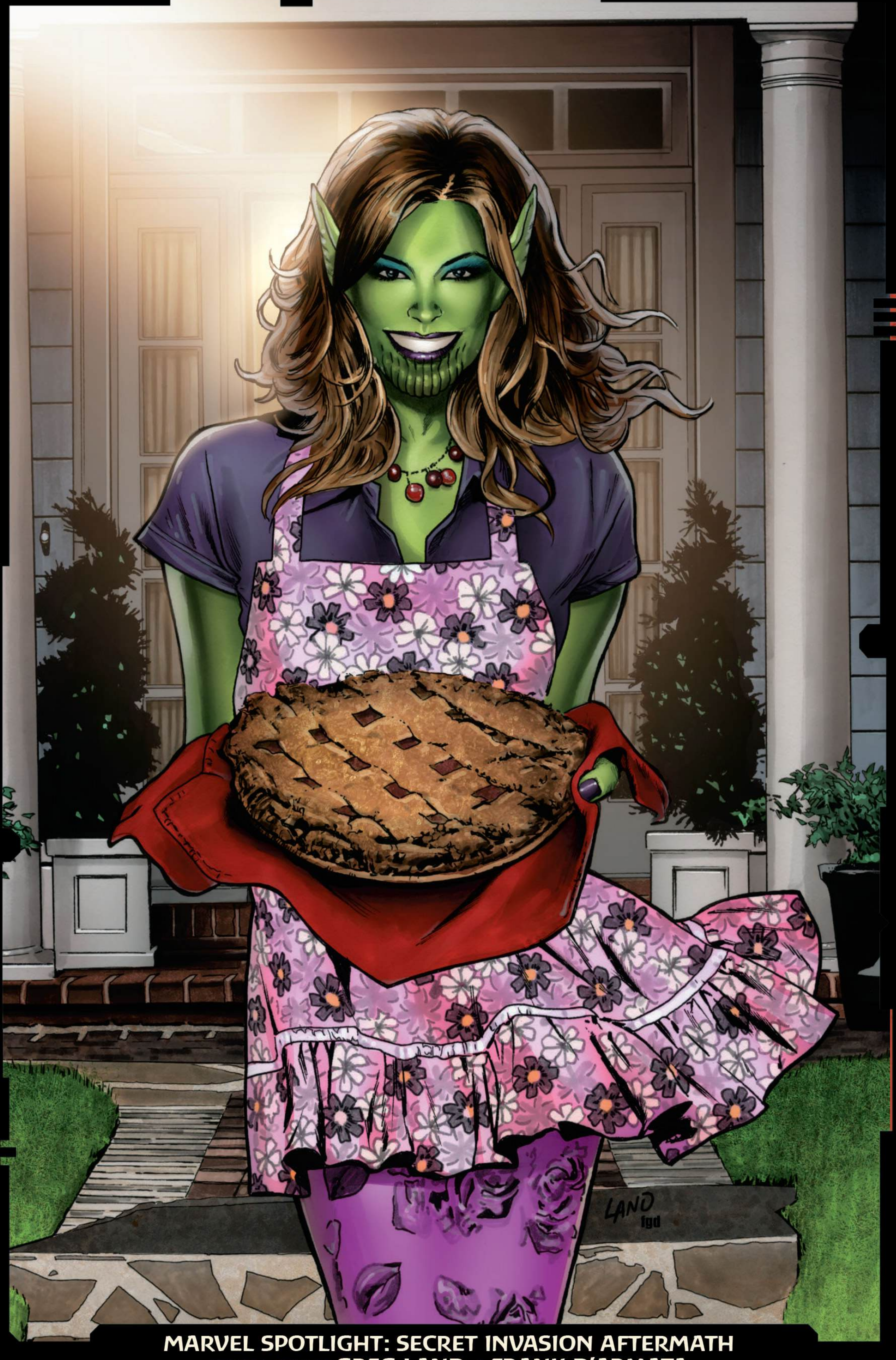


Cover to Nova #16, a Secret Invasion tie-in.

WHY IT'S COOL

DnA: "Nova verses Skrulls, what's cooler than that? And he gets to return to Earth. Interesting things always seem to happen when Nova returns home.

Guardians is going to be one hell of a character piece with some great shocks and surprises. Both books come at the Secret Invasion from the other end of the telescope, each one starting in space and examining the effects such a crisis has in the cosmic arena."



MARVEL SPOTLIGHT: SECRET INVASION AFTERMATH
COVER ART BY **GREG LAND** & **FRANK D'ARMATA**

EMBRACING CHANGE

IN THE AFTERMATH OF BENDIS'S SECRET INVASION, THE MARVEL UNIVERSE GOES THROUGH SOME MIND-BENDING CHANGES!

BY DUGAN TROGLEN

TO SAVE TIMES SQUARE: The Initiative takes to the streets of New York to fight the Skrull invasion. (Art from *Secret Invasion* #3 by Leinil Yu.)

IT'S AMAZING TO REALIZE, AS WE HERE AT *SPOTLIGHT* bask in the aftermath of *Secret Invasion*, that this story stretches all the way back to *New Avengers* #1, where writer Brian Michael Bendis redefined the Avengers concept and brought it to new sales heights. Four years later, the seeds he planted in those issues have grown into one of the biggest crossover events in Marvel history. We're extremely excited to speak with Brian in the first of a comprehensive, two-part interview (continuing in next month's *Marvel Spotlight: Dark Reign*), discussing the beginning and ending of *Secret Invasion*, its impact on the Avengers titles, and even a little about the (Mocking)bird and the bee (well, Wasp).

SPOTLIGHT: Having just read *Secret Invasion* #8, I thought it concluded really well. I liked how much of the final issue was devoted to what happened after the final battle instead of having the battle take us up to the last page of the story. That would have left a few too many questions.

BRIAN: Thanks. There's a lot going on there. We had the free -for-all in *SI* #7 and the narrative was more omniscient, letting the reader be part of the fight. I thought that was the best way to handle that part of the story, but once we started #8 I thought a narrative point of view where the reader didn't know who exactly was talking would be cool. You can tell it's someone of authority speaking with someone who was there. Is it Tony? Is it Thor? It ends up being a unique perspective as it's not a traditional Avenger. By the end, the reader is like, "Whoa, whoa, what?!?" (*Laughter.*) First we get the news that Norman Osborn got the kill shot. Then we realize it's the president talking to Norman because Norman Osborn is now The Man.

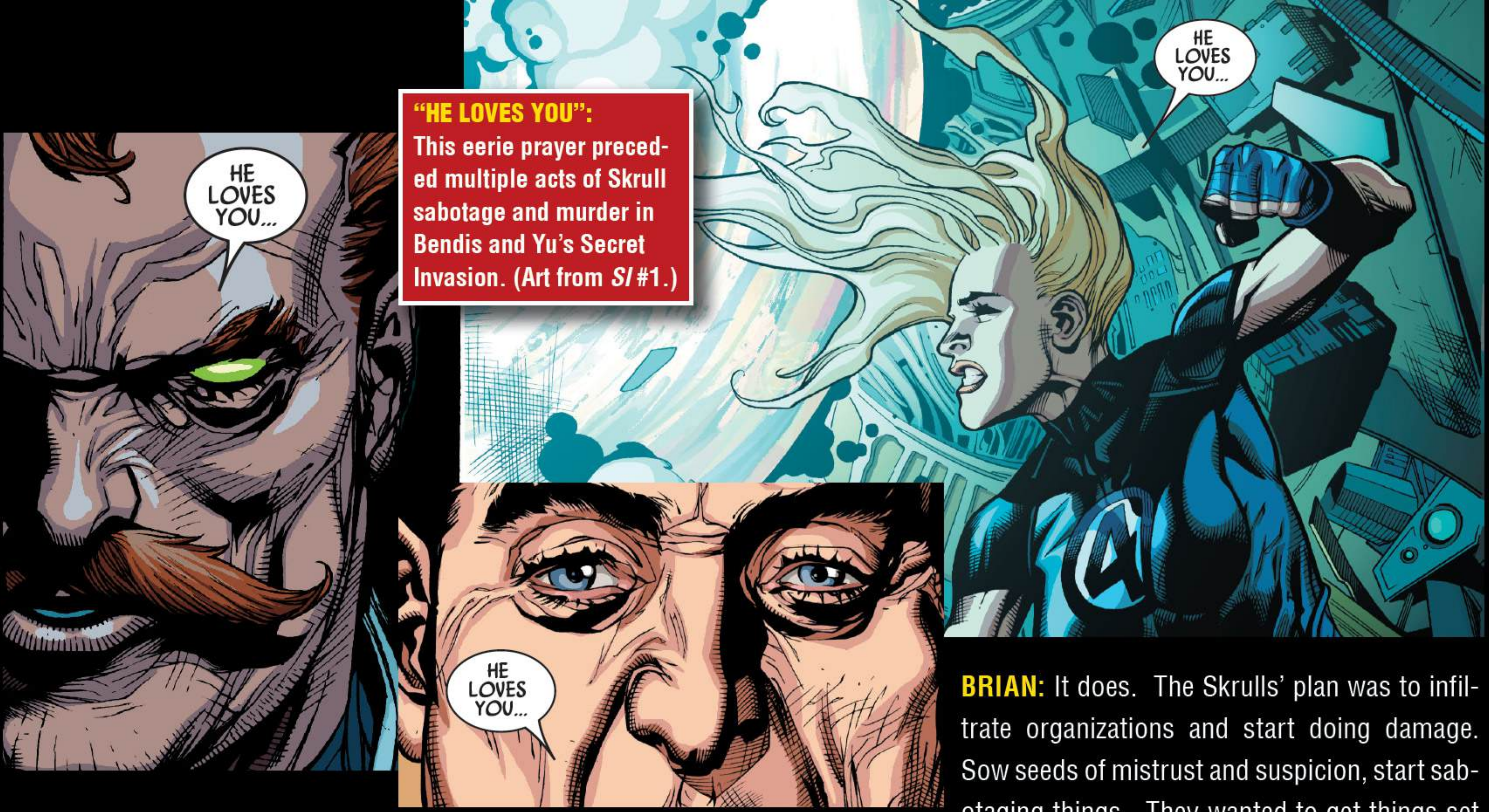
It's always important in these group books to find the most interesting point of view. I thought it also helped clarify a leap in logic as to how it got to the point that Norman was suddenly so powerful. Not only are you getting what happened through what you see, but as you do, you hear the conversation that illustrates how it got to this point. By the time we get to the last page, it's a fluid arc. It also hopefully explains some of the earlier Norman scenes. I know some people online were wondering why Norman was getting so much face time in the series. Everyone had an arc in the series and Norman certainly had a very important one. Sometimes when someone has the most important arc you don't want to necessarily telegraph that too much. You want to ease into it.

SPOTLIGHT: It was especially striking because Norman, while expanding his role in the Marvel Universe, hadn't worked his way into the stuff you had been doing in your Avengers books.

BRIAN: Right.

SPOTLIGHT: So *Secret Invasion* is finally over. This is something you've been working on for literally years.

BRIAN: I have now typed the word Skrull more than my own name.


HE LOVES YOU...
HE LOVES YOU...
HE LOVES YOU...

"HE LOVES YOU": This eerie prayer preceded multiple acts of Skrull sabotage and murder in Bendis and Yu's Secret Invasion. (Art from *SI* #1.)

SPOTLIGHT: ***(Laughter.)* I'm sure!**

BRIAN: I have a computer whose spell-check recognizes the word "Skrull." Do you understand what a big deal that is? (Laughter.) My computer now knows the words Galactus and Attilan. I was thinking, "Wow, I really do have a great job."

SPOTLIGHT: Narratively, the invasion goes back to at least *New Avengers* #1. It seems to have roots somewhat in your *Secret War* series. Was that before New Avengers?

BRIAN: Well, it's funny. It originally started before New Avengers but Gabriele Del'Otto was slower than we expected (his stuff is gorgeous though; I'm not sassing the dude) and it ended after we launched *New Avengers*. So those last scenes with Maria Hill and the President came after *New Avengers* and because of the schedule I was able to throw in a few Easter eggs into the back half of *Secret War* that related to *Secret Invasion*, particularly Nick Fury's role. So the roots of the story are there, but the first full blast of the Skrulls actually doing something was in *New Avengers* #1. Who's talking to Electro from the shadows? Why are they breaking people out of jail?

> "I HAVE A COMPUTER WHOSE SPELL-CHECK RECOGNIZES THE WORD 'SKRULL.' DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT A BIG DEAL THAT IS?"
>
> WRITER
> BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

SPOTLIGHT: You started this so long ago, and formulated the story a ways before you even started it. How much of the resolution did you know as you began this long journey?

BRIAN: The ending – a lot of what you see in that last issue – was in the original pitch. With a story like this you can't go by the seat of your pants or at your whim. It has to be planned and produced ahead of time; you really have to know where you're going. Particularly when you're doing a story that other people are sharing, everyone has to know where we're headed and why.

SPOTLIGHT: How did *Civil War* and the Fifty State Initiative affect it? It seems this idea predates Civil War's conception, even.

BRIAN: It does. The Skrulls' plan was to infiltrate organizations and start doing damage. Sow seeds of mistrust and suspicion, start sabotaging things. They wanted to get things set up for the invasion, so anything that would happen in the Marvel Universe while this was going on I would look at through the Skrulls' eyes. I was sitting at the Marvel planning retreats like the Skrull Queen going, "Oh, this Hulk War thing is good for us! Captain America's dying? That's good for us too!" I really would sit back and think that this story was organically well placed and well timed because all of these things were helping my story. *House of M*? Okay, if there are no more mutants, that helps the invasion. It felt really great to know exactly the right time to launch the book. I was able to express that especially in the New Avengers tie-ins where you get to see how things affected the Skrulls' plans. It all worked in a very non-forced way.

SPOTLIGHT: It also cast some light of suspicion on *Civil War* that got people talking. Is Iron Man a Skrull? Was Captain America a Skrull and is he alive?

BRIAN: It all came together very smoothly and that was a lot of fun. I love a story with different levels to it. Anyone who bought all of the related comics sees major, major payoff. On my message board, the Skrull theory topics have always been the biggest threads and those have been going on all year.

SPOTLIGHT: Did the *Civil War* and its aftermath cause you to alter whom you could reveal to be a Cylon…I mean a Skrull?

BRIAN: Ha. Ha. First of all the Skrulls are forty years old, Mister Cylon-joke. But it…What was the question?

SPOTLIGHT: Did *Civil War* or any other events in the Marvel Universe alter your Skrull reveal plans?

BRIAN: There were a couple of people we were gonna "Skrull out" but we decided not to because I didn't see how it helped the story. Wonder Man was one but I decided he was too boring. But Tom Brevoort and Joe Quesada and I agreed that the fewer Skrulls the better and the more potent the story. If every book revealed a Skrull it would have been like the same joke over and over again. I was happy we kept it tight.

SPOTLIGHT: Iron Man has been king of the hill in the Marvel Universe ever since *Civil War* but very early on the Skrulls take him out of the fight.

BRIAN: This goes back to *Illuminati* #1. He was the one flat-out threatening the Skrulls. Also, he's the top cop of the world. He's a major threat so they took him out. Both he and Reed Richards, they probably would be better off if they had whacked them, but they felt an obligation to their people that they needed to be punished. It backfired with Reed but it didn't so much with Tony. They pretty much got Tony. Here we are at the end of the story and Tony takes the hit for the invasion. It happened on Tony's watch. Tony said "I'll protect you" and he did not. Of course, what could he possibly have done; but someone has to take the hit. It's like when the levees broke in New Orleans. Who's gonna take the blame? There was a lot of finger-pointing until there was one guy who one day was the hero, and the next day he's out.

So Tony takes the hit politically but we see at the end of the story that Tony also seems to have taken the hit physically as well. There's something wrong with him, and that storyline is going to be picked up in Matt Fraction's *Invincible Iron Man* book.

SPOTLIGHT: It works well to set up *Dark Reign*, the next big shift in the Marvel Universe landscape. There has been this great series of giant footsteps, a throughline that goes from *Avengers Disassembled*, *House of M*, *Civil War*, to *Secret Invasion*. The steps themselves have been great, but each one leaves this awesome footprint that provides rich fodder for stories. The *Secret Invasion* aftermath has certainly done this.

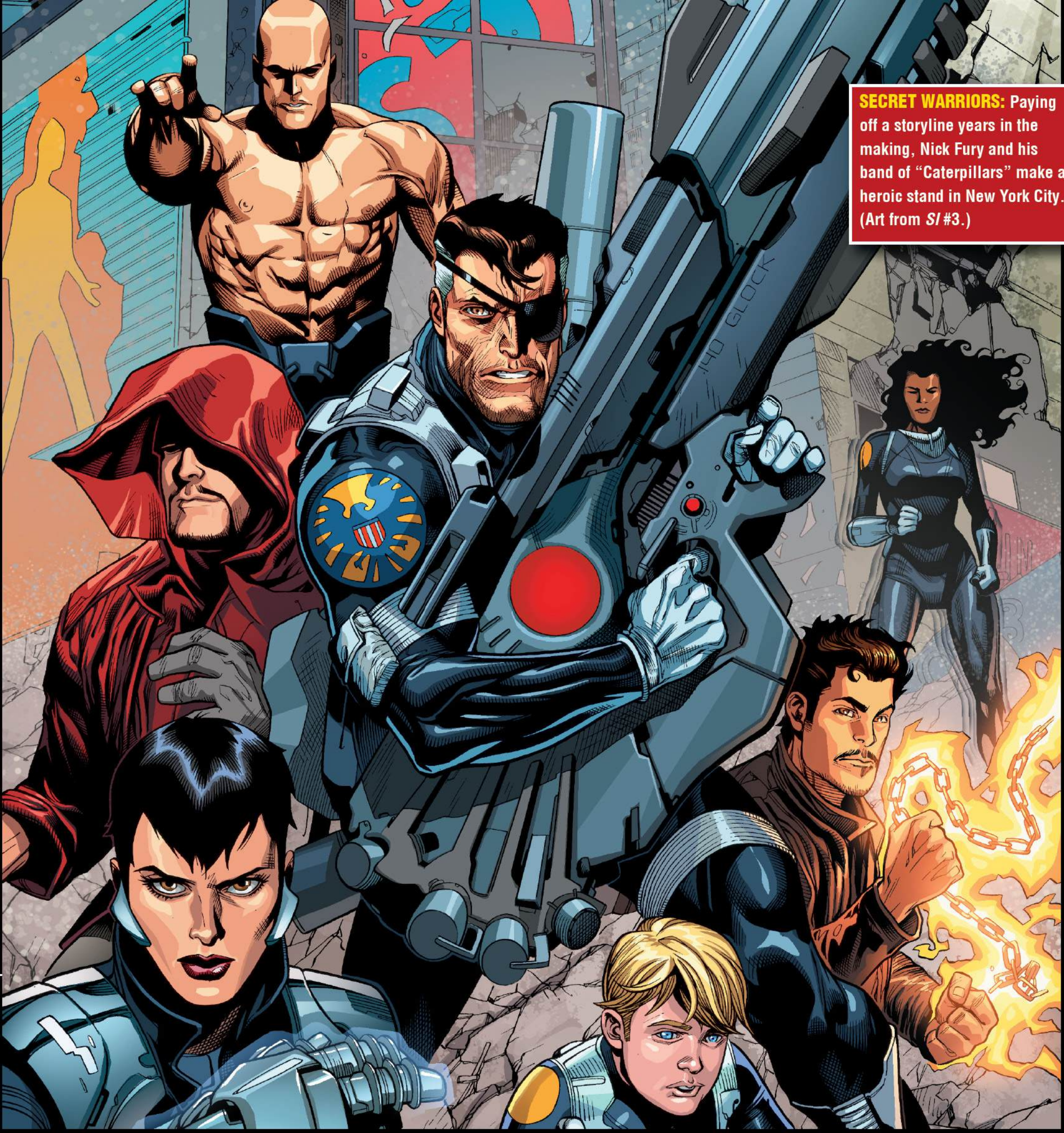
BRIAN: Yeah, hopefully. I shouldn't even say hopefully because we're already months underway working on the *Dark Reign* in numerous books and I'm very flattered about how many writers got excited about the idea and grabbed a piece and ran with it.

SPOTLIGHT: You certainly gave artist Leinil Yu a lot of work to do in *Secret Invasion* and he handled everything so well.

BRIAN: I'm not convinced he's still speaking to me. I think he needs a break from me. Remember New Avengers was already a lot of drawing. "Hey Leinil, here's 800 ninjas!" But these last two issues especially were so involved. I can't speak highly enough about what he has accomplished on this book. He did it very well, and he did it on time. (The double size of the final issue did cost two weeks but that was it.) And I've seen the original pencils and he never cheated. There's a lot of little cheats you can do; I've seen guys do them. A lot of smoke or a big cape taking up most of the panel. He didn't do any of that. It's a fantastically rendered comic book.

I've told people online to go back over each issue and don't even read the words, just enjoy the artwork. There's so much going on you may have missed in your quest for spoilers or to find out what's happening next, which I totally understand. But go back and look and see what Leinil did and check out inker Mark Morales' work. I met him in Baltimore and he was putting the finishing touches on the first double-page spread of *Secret Invasion* #7, which is just a madhouse. I

SKRULL QUEEN: The leader of the Skrull insurrection chose Spider-Woman as the ultimate stealth agent. (Art from *SI* #3.)



SECRET WARRIORS: Paying off a storyline years in the making, Nick Fury and his band of "Caterpillars" make a heroic stand in New York City. (Art from *SI* #3.)

got to examine the inks up close and they were near perfect. And Laura Martin is easily one of the best colorists in the biz. To have the hand that helped make *The Authority* so big also do this was a great thing.

SPOTLIGHT: When I compare the look of Leinil's *New Avengers* to *Secret Invasion* and see what Mark and Laura brought to the table, the word that comes to mind is "creamy." It still has Leinil's strong style but it's also smoothed out in a wonderful way.

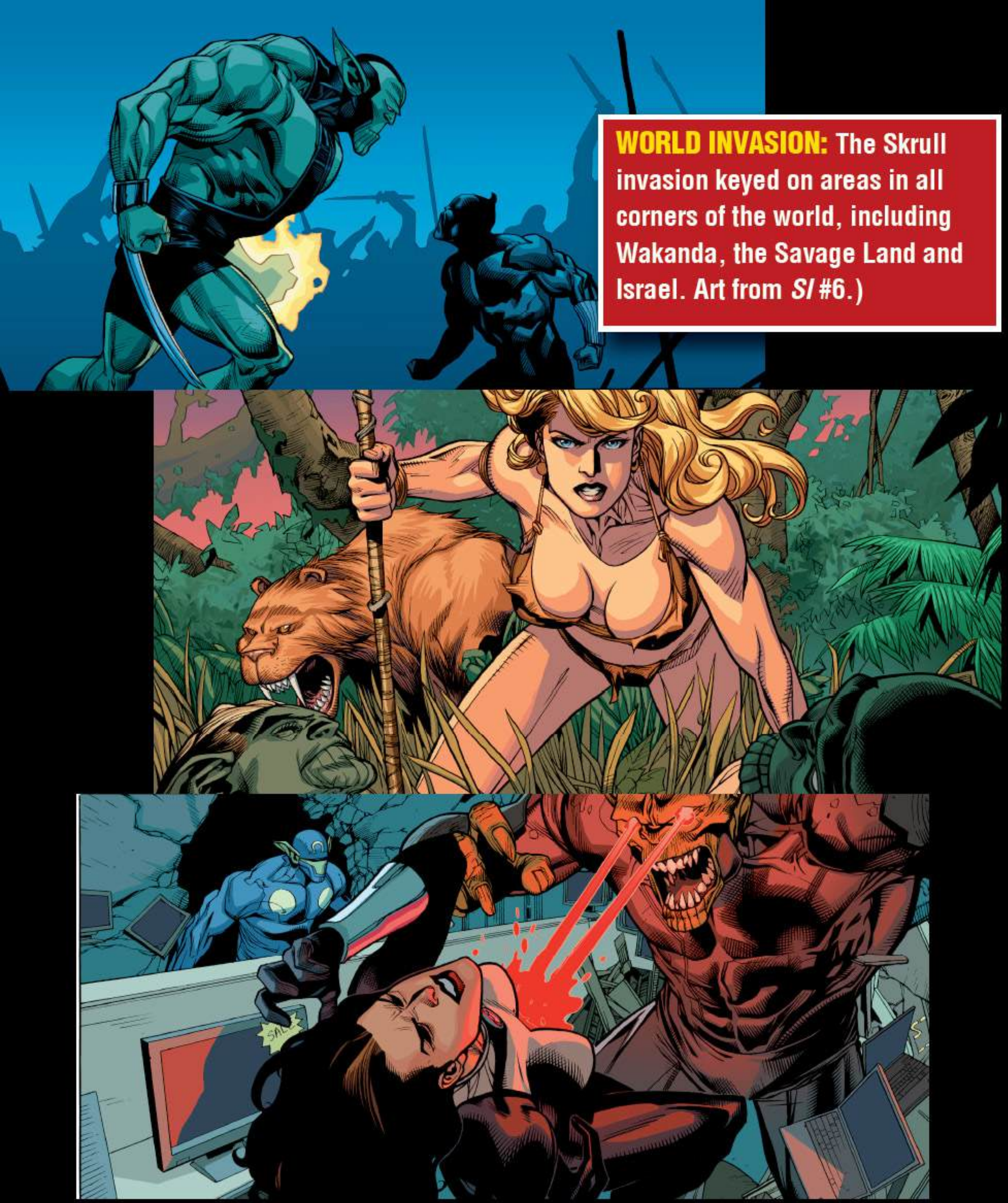
BRIAN: It's like a different cinematographer. What we did in *New Avengers* was scan straight from the pencils, which gives it a rougher look. And Dave McCaig is a really bold colorist who used some really bold ideas. Both he and Laura are what I call "storytelling colorists." They both read the script and figure out what the palette of the scene really is beyond "the sky is blue and the grass is green." They use colors as a storytelling device. And I do as well. There are a lot of notes for colorists in the script. I don't work with any colorists who don't hold to that philosophy.

> **"TONY TAKES THE HIT POLITICALLY BUT WE SEE AT THE END OF THE STORY THAT TONY ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN THE HIT PHYSICALLY AS WELL."**
>
> **BENDIS ON TONY STARK IN THE AFTERMATH OF *SI***

SPOTLIGHT: That's one thing I've always noticed in your comics going back to when I first read *Powers*. As much as there is a screenplay/teleplay influence in your writing, you have a keen sense of what the page itself looks like. You're always aware that someone is looking at a page of art along with your script.

BRIAN: Thanks. That comes from the fact that I was writing and drawing my own graphic novels for close to a decade before the world decided I was a writer. I was making my own comics, lettering my own comics, coloring my own comics. I colored parts of *Powers* and the covers for the first couple of years. I did all of those things and that helps get across to my collaborators that I know what their job entails. I clearly can't do it as well, but I know what it entails.

SPOTLIGHT: There are so many things you can



WORLD INVASION: The Skrull invasion keyed on areas in all corners of the world, including Wakanda, the Savage Land and Israel. Art from *SI* #6.)

do in comics you can't do in other media.

BRIAN: Absolutely. If they made a movie of *Secret Invasion*, you couldn't put Howard the Duck in the middle of a crowd scene! (*Laughter.*) You can get away with it in comics. That happens in a movie and people would say, "Whoa ,whoa, stop the movie!" *[As anyone who has seen George Lucas' Howard the Duck film can attest. – Ed.]*

SPOTLIGHT: How much did you pay attention to the other *Secret Invasion* books?

BRIAN: Well, that was mostly Tom Brevoort's job. But because I was the main author and had been down this road before with other crossovers I did take an interest in what kinds of tie-ins we had. Tom and Joe Quesada and I had a pretty strong mandate about what those tie-ins should be. We didn't just want a Skrull of the Week. I like to offer it out to people in a very voluntary way. We say, "Here's what we're doing. If you have a story that you think is unique that can be a part of this, please join us. But you are under no editorial obligation." Because I hate to hear stories about writers who had to stop what they were doing to tell *Secret Wars II* tie-ins or something. The bonus is you only get pitches from people who are genuinely excited about doing it.

There were a few tie-ins that were my ideas that came directly out of the story. I clear as day set up the *Secret Invasion: Fantastic Four* series, and I was involved with the Inhumans stuff. And when I say "my idea," it's just me saying, "Wouldn't it be cool for Johnny Storm to have an adventure in the Negative Zone?" and that was it. They ended up getting great creative teams for all this stuff, which I love as a fan. But for every idea I may have helped come up with there was one where I said, "Wow, what a great idea. I never would have thought of that," like *Incredible Hercules* or *Captain Britain*.

I was also thinking about how unusual it is for me as the author of the main series to have sixteen issues of tie-ins myself in the two Avengers titles. I was using those books to rewind the clock, and introduce new characters and all sorts of other stuff. So I was trying to accomplish a unique experience. I tried to make my tie-ins as surprising as possible and provide a great payoff for folks who do read the *Avengers* and have for coming up on fifty issues.

SPOTLIGHT: What was your philosophy on the stories in *Mighty Avengers* versus *New Avengers*? How did you know what story would go in which title?

BRIAN: Primarily *New Avengers* was easier. It's had years of head start and a lot of the important characters were very involved in *New Avengers*. So anything that had a strong connection to what was happening or had already happened in *New Avengers* ended up in *New Avengers*. That would include the Spider-Woman stuff and the Illuminati issue, for instance. That made *Mighty Avengers* the home for other stories, like Nick Fury and the Secret Warriors, Marvel Boy, the Hank Pym stuff. Some of it was only tangentially related, but there was no other way of doing this. All of the Avengers were so involved in *Secret Invasion* I couldn't tell another story with them in the Avengers books.

SPOTLIGHT: You can't have some parallel story with them when they are obviously busy in *Secret Invasion* and seem to be in more places than one.

BRIAN: We have enough problems with that with Wolverine. He's in San Francisco and he's in the Avengers. (*Laughter.*)

SPOTLIGHT: You used *Secret Invasion* to bring back some interesting, recently introduced characters from the Marvel Universe, characters that had strong introductions and then seemed to fade away. This goes back to your reintroduction of Sentry, Echo and The Hood, but with *SI* you've added Grant Morrison's Marvel Boy and Agent Brand from Joss Whedon's *Astonishing X-Men*.

BRIAN: I go through waves where I get obsessed with this. I hear comic book pundits (if there is such a thing) say things like, "No one's created anything since Wolverine!" and I say, "No that's not true!" What happens is like with the Sentry: Cool idea, cool character, and then…no one touches it. People say, "Oh, well that's Paul Jenkins's character." But we all play with Stan's toys and isn't this the same thing? So I call Paul and ask to use Sentry and he says, "Please, yes! I can't believe it's been years and nobody's touched him!" That's been the reaction of every creator of these characters. David Mack with Echo, Brian K. Vaughan with the Hood – every one of them said "Please!" It was almost insulting the way folks had avoided the characters. We thought we were quietly respecting each other's work.

FINAL FIGHT: Wolverine seeks to put down the Skrull queen in the action-packed finale of *Secret Invasion*. (Art from *SI* #7.)

With Joss Whedon's Agent Brand, like everyone else I fell in love with her and she became so important to the first half of *Secret Invasion* that if he hadn't given his blessing to use the character I literally don't know what I would have done. But he was very nice and said yes. I thought SWORD was a fantastic idea and one I had on me as well but he fleshed it out first and gave it the great name. I literally had on my list "S.H.I.E.L.D. for aliens" but never had a name or really developed it so I gleefully stole Joss's.

KILL SHOT: In the final battle, Hawkeye goes for the killing blow. (Art from *SI* #7.)

SPOTLIGHT: Another thing you like to do is bring back older characters and update them, Power Man and Spider-Woman most famously. Now you've brought Mockingbird back, which is such a relief after her earlier appearance in *SI* turned out to be a false start. Was this your reward for Clint Barton after all you've put him through?

BRIAN: It was my reward for Marvel publicity man Jim McCann who's been a very good friend and a big Mockingbird lover. (*Laughter.*) But it really came from the first ship that crashed and had all of the retro characters in it. When we included Hawkeye we knew we had to have Mockingbird. Then you do the Mockingbird research and realize she had the worst death in the history of Marvel Comics, maybe in all of literature. (*Laughter.*) And she's in hell; it's just terrible. I'm sorry, you can yell at me online, but I stand by it. Just because it's old doesn't mean it's good. So here was a great reason and chance to bring her back. It was also a trade-off because we, um, we took someone away, so we thought it would be good karma to bring someone back. And with the renewed interest in Hawkeye it would be good to bring back his most exciting "supporting player."

SPOTLIGHT: Well, since you brought it up, we can move to the most unpleasant topic of the person you did take away from us: Janet Van Dyne Pym, the Wasp and founding Avenger.

BRIAN: Yeah, yeah. The Hawkeye reaction is just calming down, four years later and now this! (*Laughter.*) Listen, I love Janet and people think I kill characters like this because I hate the Avengers and hate the characters and that's just insane. I adore them and adore her, but to go through a war like this and have everybody walk away with a scratch on their arm and say "Whoo, that was close!" would ring false. There's got to be a felt loss. And we set this up. I know it's hard to imagine that we were planning a story this long, but here's an example. We seeded this in the early issues of *Mighty Avengers* when you didn't know Hank Pym was a Skrull. There was that scene where he gives Janet that "new formula" that sets this all up. It's the only time I used a flashback in *Secret Invasion*. The Skrulls set her up to fall one way or another.

The Skrulls are very vindictive and very pointed in their vengeance. Janet is picked because she is close to Tony, she is a founding Avenger, and she's the last sort of person they'd look to for that kind of trouble. And it relates to why they chose Hank to replace. He got right up to her and had her take that formula.

SPOTLIGHT: It will be interesting to see where Hank goes from here.

BRIAN: I love this stuff. I love how things are coming out of this. Mockingbird has a whole new world. Everything is new. Every relationship is new, including the relationship with her husband. What do you do now? Two days ago Clint was tickling Echo. Spider-Woman as well. She walks out of that ship and she has no idea she is the face of Osama Bin Laden. She is the face of betrayal. Even with those who can see past that, the relationship is different. She and Carol are better friends now. Jessica doesn't know that! She wasn't there for it. That fascinates me.

SPOTLIGHT: Not only do we have that rich concept, as well as Norman's ascent, but another aftereffect of *Secret Invasion* is the kidnapping of Jessica Jones and Luke Cage's baby by the Jarvis Skrull. First of all, we saw the baby's eyes glowing at the end of an issue of *New Avengers*.

BRIAN: That is what we call a red herring. (*Laughter.*)

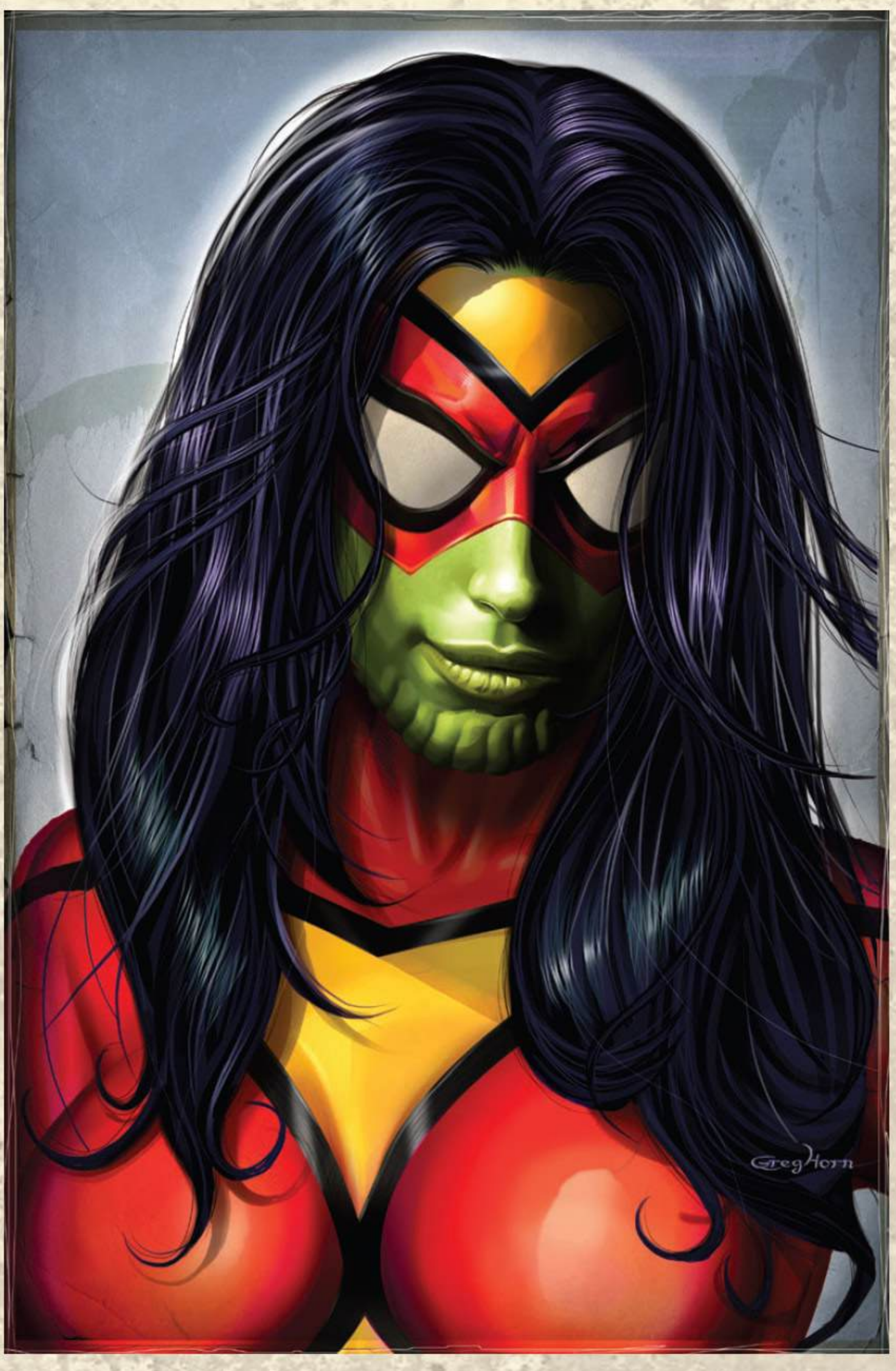
SPOTLIGHT: Where does that story go from there?

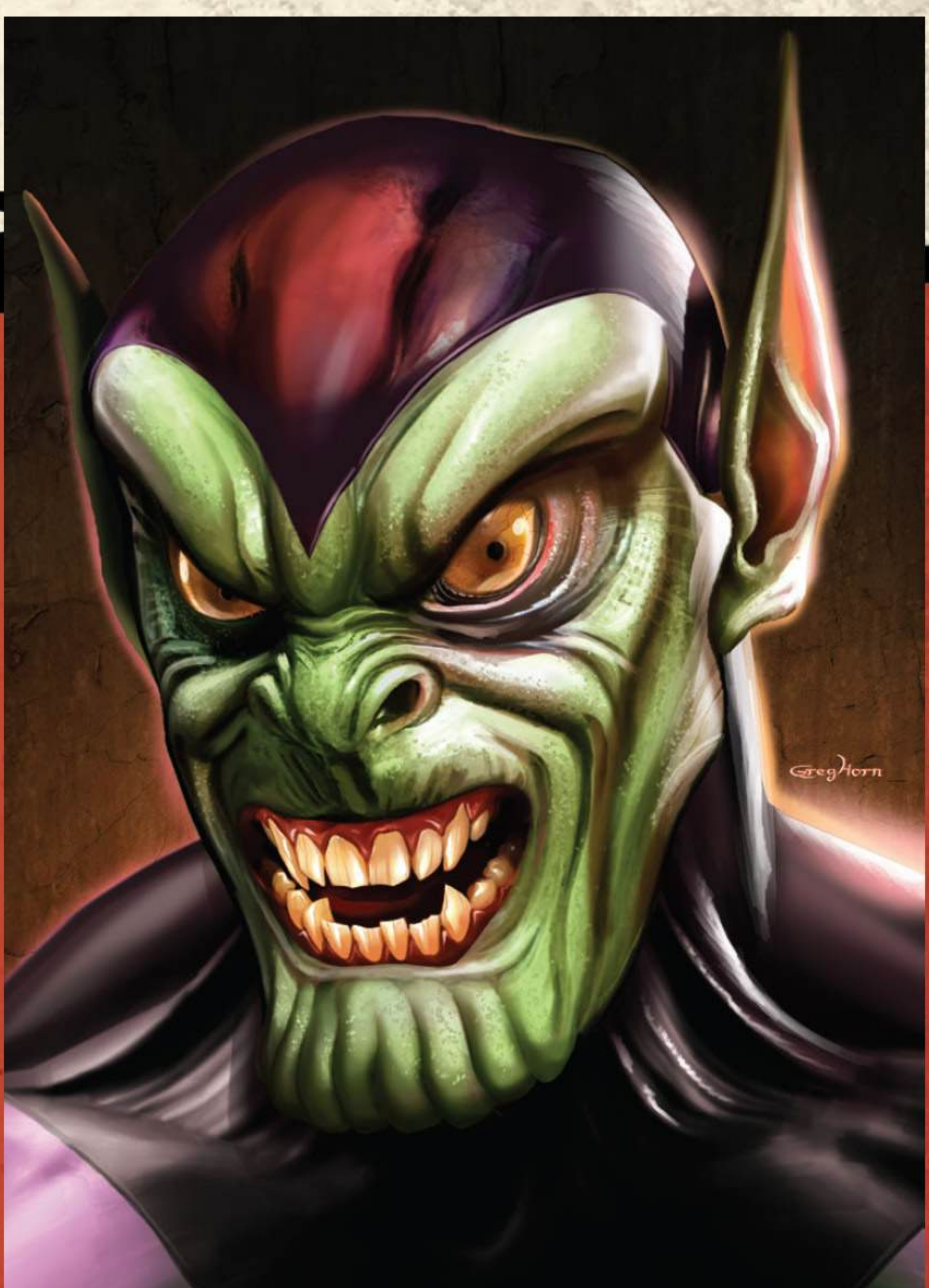
BRIAN: That's covered in *New Avengers* in the first post-*Secret Invasion* issues. I know some people prefer a more close-ended story but I never like to do it that way and I seem incapable of it. I want you to want to read *New Avengers*!

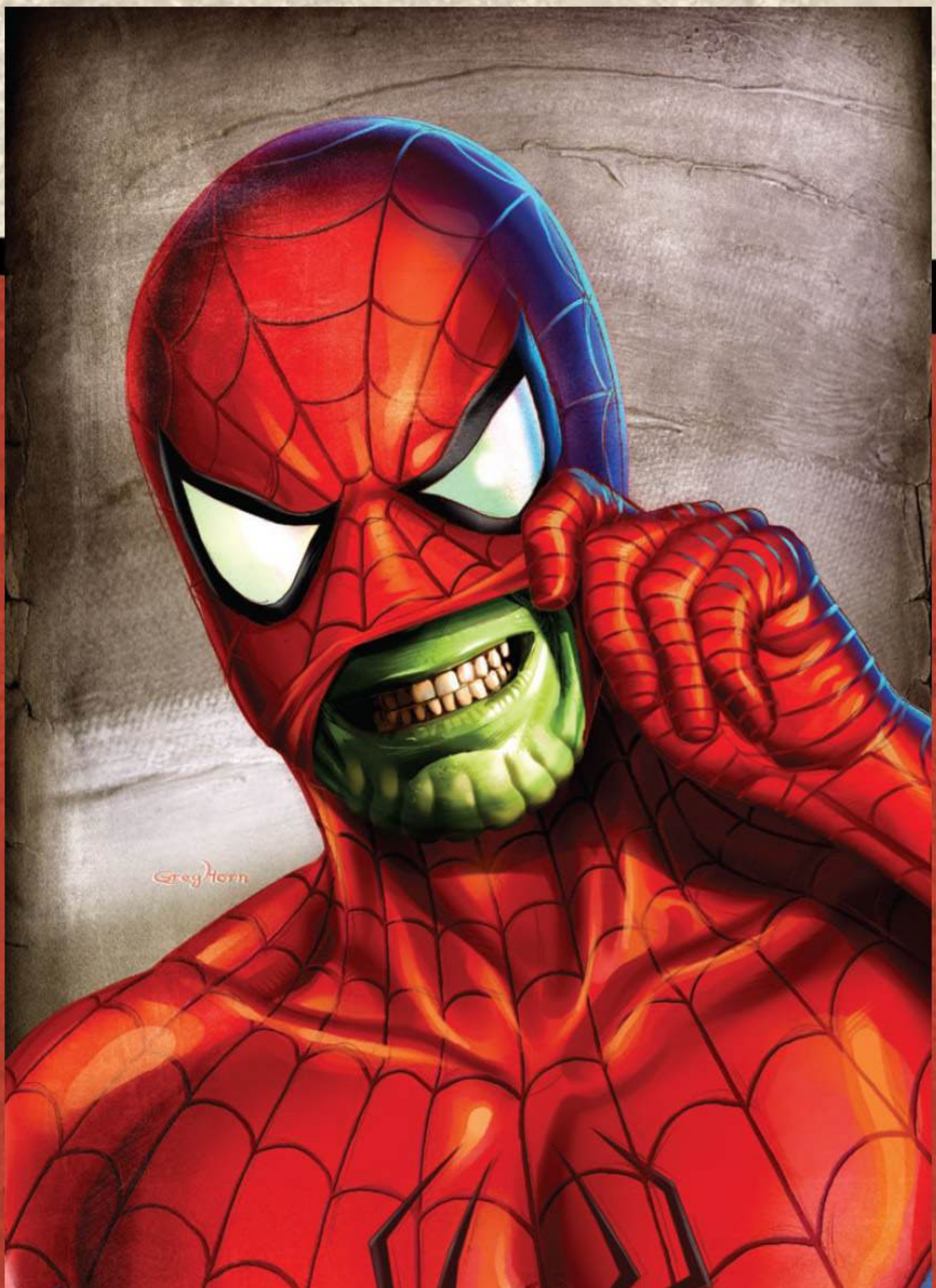
We do! We do! Catch part two of our Brian Michael Bendis interview next month in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT: DARK REIGN. We'll talk more about NEW AVENGERS, SECRET WARRIORS and Brian's next smash, the mysterious DARK AVENGERS!

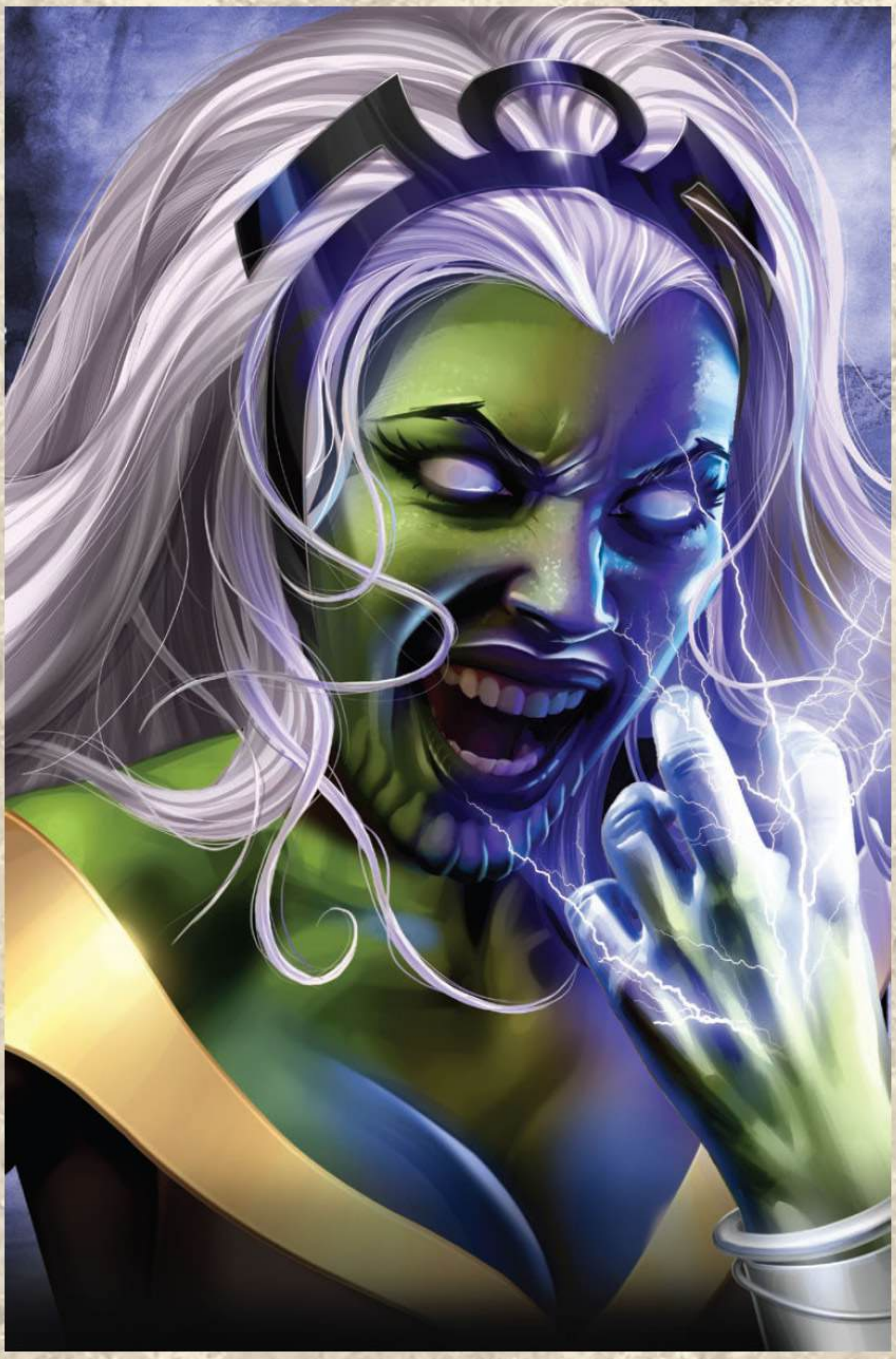
“WHO DO YOU TRUST?”

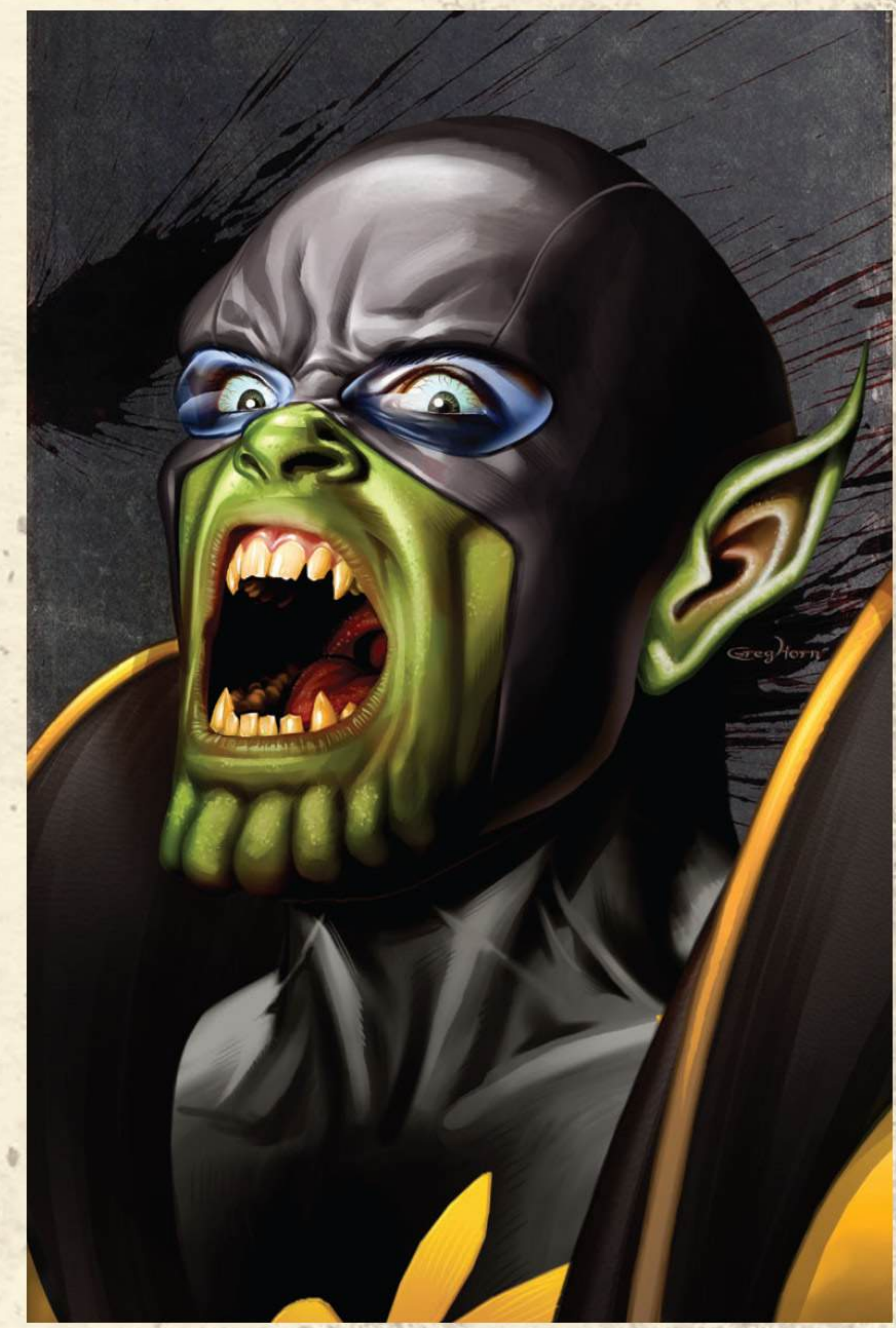
PROMOTIONAL IMAGES BY
GREG HORN

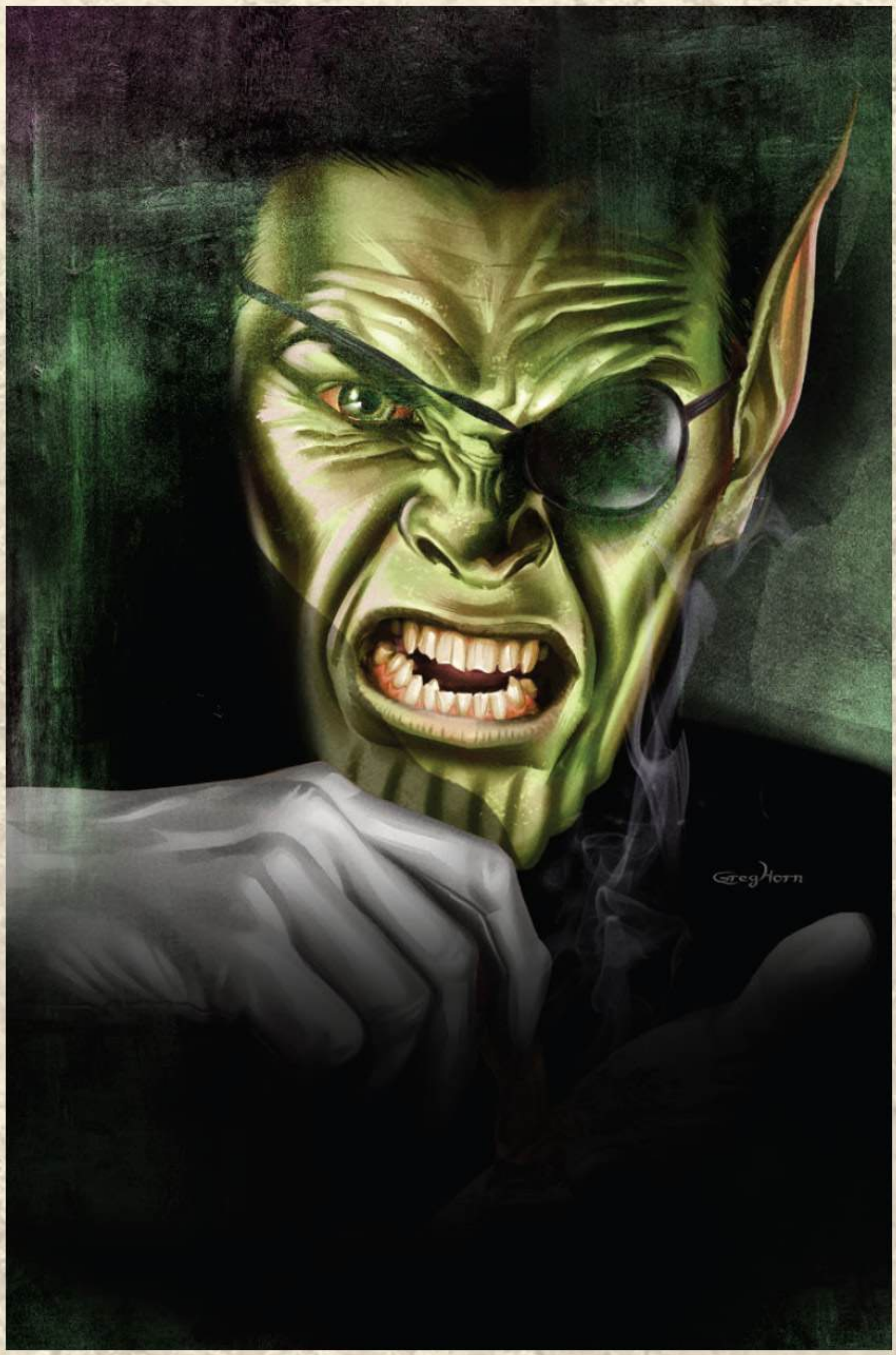









Greg Horn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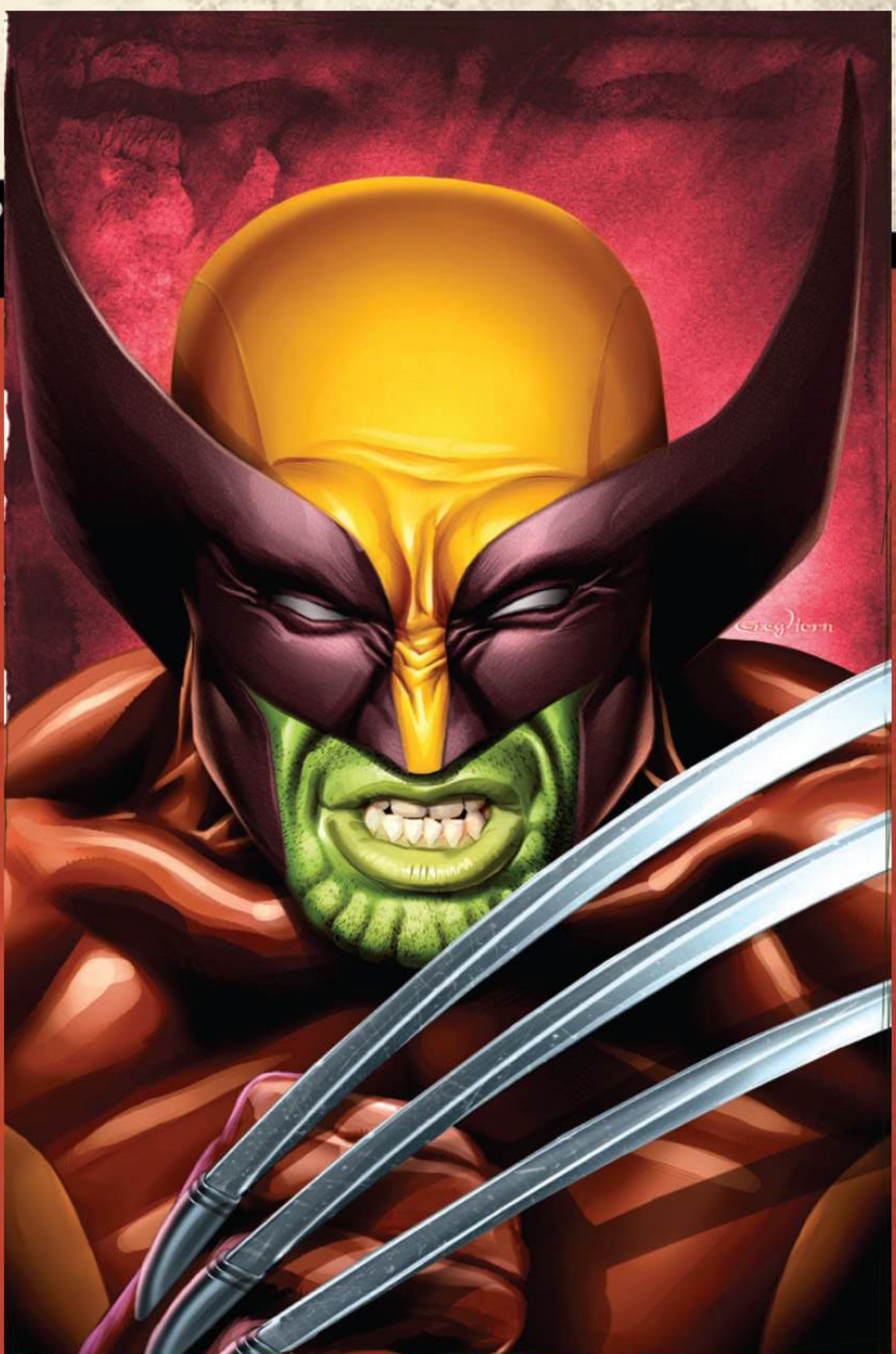
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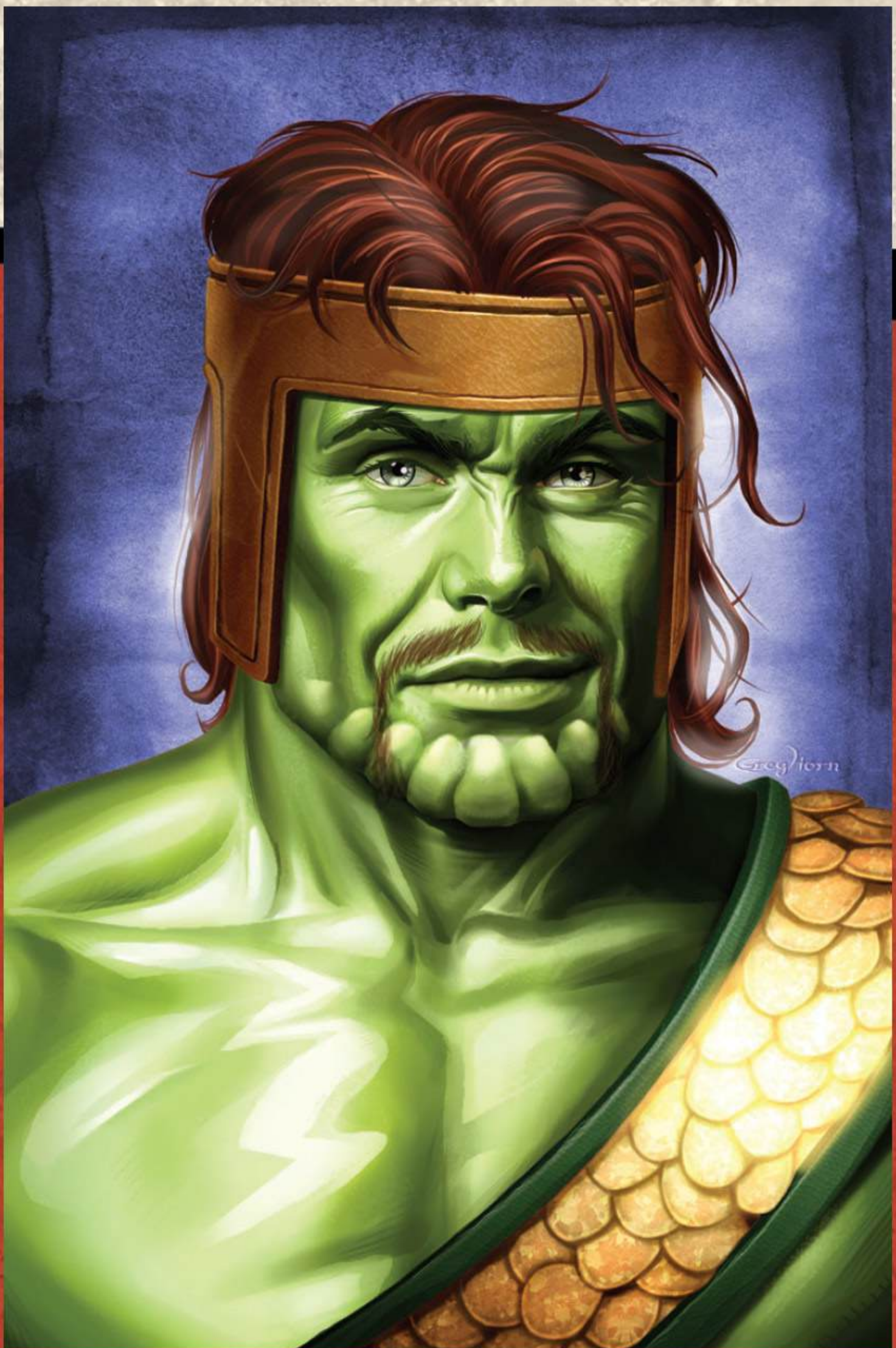
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Greg Horn

This represents Brian Bendis' initial broad strokes overview for what was then six issues. It's difficult to remember for certain, but this would almost certainly have been written up and blocked out after Brian had already verbally walked us through the basic concepts of the story at one of our editorial meetings. Many of the individual elements weren't entirely in place yet — but still, the overall shape of it is very much like what saw print. For those who're interested, my copy is dated 5/24/07 — TOM BREVOORT

SKRULLS!!

MINISERIES ISSUE BREAKDOWN

BY BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

ISSUES 1 – 2

STARK'S SECRET WAREHOUSE – Tony Stark, by himself, attempts an Elektra Skrull autopsy in an attempt to create a Skrull detector. He's close, but he doesn't have it.

AVENGER'S TOWER – Luke Cage and the New Avengers break into the Tower and hijack a quinjet.

SAVAGE LAND – The Mighty Avengers and S.H.I.E.L.D. easily follow the new Avengers to the Savage Land. Obviously, they wanted to be followed.

The New Avengers touch down and search the ruins of what was the Savage Land. No Kazar. No Zabu. With Doctor Strange's help they find?

A ship. A crashed Skrull ship, half buried in the mud. The Mighty Avengers show up just in time for it to be opened.

Tony tries to arrest them, but Luke opens the ship anyway.

It's a Skrull ship and the small crew is dead. But its cargo is not...
ORIGINAL PHOENIX
SPIDEY WITH WEB PITS
IRON MAN WITH THE NOSE ARMOR
LUKE CAGE IN SATIN SHIRT AND TIARA
DISCO DAZZLER
ORIGINAL MS. MARVEL
ORIGINAL VISION
MOCKINGBIRD
HAWKEYE
BLUE FURRY BEAST
SUE STORM
WONDER-MAN
CAPTAIN AMERICA
EVIL EMMA FROST

Accusations fly, tempers flare and a battle rages high!!

Seventies Marvel versus modern Marvel. Modern Marvel wins and some of the seventies characters are revealed to be Skrulls but not all!!

Mockingbird is back!! Hawkeye and Mockingbird are back together. Echo is in a coma.

But the Savage Land fight was only phase one of the ground battle. A distraction at best.

NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON – An army of new Super-Skrulls made of every shape and size of hero and villain attacks New York City.
With Tony Stark and the Avengers a world away, the heroes are without a leader? But Nick Fury is back to lead the heroes.

ISSUES 3 – 4

NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON – Super-Skrull army versus the New Avengers, the Mighty Avengers, The Initiative, The Champions, The Runaways, the Fantastic Four, the X-Men and the Hood's army of super villains. Even Jessica Jones jumps into the mix.

The fight is going badly. Until Thor shows up, then Cap shows up, the holy trinity of Avengers is back together for the first time in years and the combined and rejuvenated army of Marvel heroes attacks.

The moment the battle turns is when Captain Marvel, really a Skrull, sides with the heroes and sacrifices himself to help defeat the Super-Skrull army. Marvel Boy witnesses this and is inspired to be the new Captain Marvel.

The Skrull army is defeated and the Skrull home ship is located. Captain Marvel Skrull, with his dying breath, tries to tell Tony Stark how to detect a Skrull, but dies before he can.

Iron Man puts together an all-powerhouse team to end this fight once and for all.

ISSUES 5 – 6

SPACE – An all powerhouse team of heroes THOR, HERCULES, IRON-MAN, SENTRY, BLACK BOLT, NAMOR, ARES, MS. MARVEL, WONDER-MAN, etc. and takes the fight to them.

The battle is intense and victorious. Hercules dies in battle.
The Skrull queen is missing. Thor is able to get a Skrull to tell them how to detect a Skrull as Tony finds a ship that has more pods in it.

The pods are filled with the real humans that have been replaced by Skrulls. Including Wonder-Man, who is standing right behind Tony.

Wonder-Man Skrull almost defeats Tony, but the real Wonder-Man joins in and kills him.

Iron Man and the others are horrified to see who is trapped on this ship. Hundreds of civilians, SPIDER-WOMAN, NIGHTCRAWLER, WONG, HANK PYM,

NEW YORK – The powerhouse team gets the humans back to Earth just in time for the Spider-Woman Skrull to reveal herself to be the Skrull queen. This was her religion. The Earth is hers by divine right. This isn't good versus bad. This is what her religion believes to be true.

Iron Man senses a massive energy fluctuation.

The Skrull queen is a suicide bomber. Her last hope. Sentry takes her and launches into space.

Sentry takes the explosion in the face. It's massive. An explosion meant to wipe out the human race.

It massively depowers the Sentry.

Thor catches Sentry and saves him.

Jessica Jones sees Wong in the crowd of human refugees. That means she left her baby with a Skrull agent.

SANCTUM – When Luke and Jessica rush to Doctor Strange's house, the Wong Skrull has already killed himself and the baby.

NEW YORK – Iron Man and Cap and Thor reunite as friends and Iron Man says its time to figure out who is an Avenger.

Norman Osborn shows up with the Thunderbolts and announces that they are the Avengers. The Avengers and Tony Stark are blamed for the invasion, the destruction and Norman WILL find out who the real Skrulls are.

More later.

SECRET INVASION TIMELINE

KREE/SKRULL WAR **// AVENGERS #89–97**

Illuminati go after Skrulls, Skrulls get Illuminati DNA **// ILLUMINATI #1**

Veranke sent to barren wasteland **// NEW #40**

Skrulls begin cloning experiments **// NEW #40**

Skrulls clone Reed Richards, killed by King Dorrek **// NEW #40**

Sentry has first Skrull encounter **// MIGHTY #14**

Skrulls fail with clones of Illuminati **// NEW #44**

Skrulls get secret of working undetected from clone Reed **// NEW #44**

GALACTUS EATS SKRULL THRONEWORLD **// FF #257**

Skrulls come to Veranke **// NEW #40**

Veranke becomes queen **// NEW #40**

AVENGERS AND FF BATTLE SKRULLS **// AVENGERS ANNUAL #14**

Elektra ambushed by Skrulls **// MIGHTY #16**

Elektra replaced by Skrull **// NEW #40 (recounted)**

WOLVERINE – ENEMY OF THE STATE **// WOLVERINE #20–32**

Veranke presented with new model Super–Skrull **// NEW #40**

Veranke presented with Skrull Elektra **// NEW #40**

Veranke decides to impersonate Jessica Drew **// NEW #40**

Nick Fury recruits Jessica Drew as double agent **// NEW #15/NEW #42**

Hydra gives Spider–Woman back her powers **// NEW #15**

Skrulls replace Jessica Drew with Veranke **// NEW #42**

Skrulls create Skrull Captain America, put him in pod **// NEW #43**

Skrulls meet at safe house (Elektra, Spider-Woman) Veranke gives Elektra her mission **// MIGHTY #16**

SECRET WAR

Nick tells Jessica Drew that he's going underground **// NEW #14**

Nick Fury goes underground **// MIGHTY #12**

Skrulls meet at safe house (Spider–Woman, Elektra, Jarvis, Contessa) discuss Vibranium **// NEW #42**

Contessa says she's been in place for two days **// NEW #42**

Skrull Jessica Drew gets posted to the Raft **// NEW #42**

AVENGERS DISASSEMBLED **// AVENGERS #500–503**

Elektra Skrull takes over Hand, mentions Avengers are no more **// MIGHTY #16**

Nick Fury found by Contessa Skrull **// MIGHTY #12**

Nick Fury kills Contessa Skrull **// MIGHTY #12**

Nick Fury becomes aware of Skrull conspiracy **// MIGHTY #12**

Nick Fury warns Maria Hill on Helicarrier **// MIGHTY #12**

Nick Fury tells Spider–Woman about the Skrulls, not realizing she's a Skrull **// MIGHTY #12**

Real Hank lectures at U of Oxford **// MIGHTY #15**

Real Hank and Jan separate **// MIGHTY #15**

Skrull Elektra hires Electro for Raft breakout **// MIGHTY #16**

RAFT BREAKOUT **// NEW AVENGERS #1–3**

Real Hank and Skrull "Gwen" canoodle, see news of press conference **// MIGHTY #15**

Hank replaced by Skrull "Gwen" **// MIGHTY #15**

NEW AVENGERS FORM **// NEW AVENGERS #3–4**

Skrull Jessica and Skrull Hank discuss the Raft breakout and her joining New Avengers **// NEW #42**

Ka–Zar and Shanna discover Skrulls among S.H.I.E.L.D. in Savage Land, including Contessa **// NEW #41 – (This would be the 2nd Contessa Skrull)**

NEW AVENGERS IN SAVAGE LAND **// NEW AVENGERS #4–6**

Skrull Jessica finds out about Wanda's whereabouts **// NEW #42**

Skrull Jessica meets with Maria Hill, gets call from Hank to meet at Tower for House of M mission **// NEW #42**

HOUSE OF M **// HOUSE OF M #1–7**

Skrull Jessica and Skrull Hank in House of M **// NEW #45**

Veranke tries to assassinate Wanda in HOM, uncreated by her **// NEW #45**

M-DAY **// HOUSE OF M #8**

Veranke recreated along with the regular Marvel U **// NEW #45**

Skrulls meet at safe house (Jarvis, Spider–Woman, Elektra, Hank?, Contessa) speak about M–Day and Annihilation Wave **// NEW #45**

NEW AVENGERS PRESS CONFERENCE **// NEW AVENGERS #15**

Skrull Jarvis asks for access to Avengers Tower files **// MIGHTY #14**

Skrulls meet at safe house (Elektra, Spider–Woman, Jarvis, Contessa) **// MIGHTY #14**

SKRULL EMPIRE DECIMATED **// ANNIHILATION #1–6**

CIVIL WAR **// CIVIL WAR #1–7**

Captain Mar–Vell Skrull escapes, thinks he's the real Mar–Vell **// CIVIL WAR THE RETURN/CAPTAIN MARVEL #1–5**

CAPTAIN AMERICA ASSASSINATED **// CAPTAIN AMERICA #25**

Dum Dum Dugan ambushed by Contessa Skrull, replaced by Skrull **// SECRET INVASION TEASER**

Nick Fury recruits Daisy Johnson **// MIGHTY #13**

Hank Pym and Dum Dum Dugan meet in Oregon, Hank killed after rebelling **// MIGHTY #17**

Daisy Johnson takes photos for Fury **// MIGHTY #17**

New Skrull replaces Hank Skrull **// MIGHTY #17**

MIGHTY AVENGERS FORMED, BATTLE ULTRON **// MIGHTY AVENGERS #1–6**

Skrulls meet at safe house (Spider–Woman, Hank, Contessa, Jarvis) and work out how to disable Stark Tech **// MIGHTY #15**

Daisy recruits Ares' son Phobos **// MIGHTY #13**

Daisy recruits Yo Yo **// MIGHTY #13**

Daisy recruits Hellfire **// MIGHTY #13**

Daisy attempts to recruit Layla Miller, fails **// MIGHTY #13**

Daisy recruits Druid **// MIGHTY #13**

Daisy recruits Stonewall **// MIGHTY #13**

ELEKTRA DISCOVERED AS A SKRULL **// NEW AVENGERS #31**

SPIDER–WOMAN STEALS ELEKTRA CORPSE **// NEW AVENGERS #32**

HANK GIVES JAN GROWTH SERUM **// MIGHTY AVENGERS #8 (Flashback)**

Skrull Hank gives Jan tainted growth formula **// MIGHTY #15**

SPIDER–WOMAN TAKES CORPSE TO IRON MAN **// MIGHTY AVENGERS #7**

WORLD WAR HULK

IRON MAN TAKES CORPSE TO ILLUMINATI, BLACK BOLT SKRULL REVEALED **// NA ILLUMINATI #5**

Nick Fury has the Secret Warriors abduct Maria Hill as a training exercise **// MIGHTY #18**

The Hood and his crew learn about the Skrull infiltration **// NEW #46**

Cap Skrull and other '70s Hero Skrulls aboard pod come to life, escape in pod **// NEW #43**

SECRET
INVASION

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTED INTERNALLY AND TO OTHER CREATORS EXPLAINING THE MAJOR POINTS OF THE CROSSOVER.

SECRET INVASION PLANNING SHEET

WHAT IT IS:

SECRET INVASION is Marvel's major crossover event for 2008. The buildup has been going on in the background of the assorted AVENGERS titles for some time, really kicking off in NEW AVENGERS #31. The actual series begins in April, and runs for eight issues, ending in November

THE PREMISE:

Since the destruction of their homeworld, and now with the decimation of their population in ANNIHILATION, the Skrulls are in desperate need of a new planet to call their own. Among a certain religious sect within the Skrull culture, there are prophesies that indicate that Earth is that predestined planet. So for several months/years, this sect of Skrulls has been executing a secret invasion of the world, replacing people in key positions within the infrastructure of planetary defense so as to be able to sow discord from within, and be in a position to undermine and destroy any attempt to prevent them from taking the planet when the foredestined time comes. And that time is now.

HOW YOUR TIE-IN WORKS:

Because there are three main AVENGERS titles that will be tying directly into the events of SECRET INVASION almost throughout the entirety of the event, there are probably going to be fewer windows in which other tie-ins can comfortably fit than normal—especially for the characters that are directly involved in the main book.

Also, like WORLD WAR HULK, the events of SECRET INVASION take place over at most a couple of days' time, so that will also limit the types of tie-in stories we can do.

We're planning for there to be three kinds of tie-ins to SECRET INVASION at the moment. They are:

INDIVIDUAL ISSUES OF MONTHLY BOOKS: These will be the most prevalent of the crossovers, and will be the toughest to coordinate. Because the events of SECRET INVASION are so sweeping, they're going to impact almost every monthly title we publish at some point. However, we want to be careful not to have so many crossovers and tie-ins that it becomes ridiculous. As Bendis pointed out for HOUSE OF M, we're only as strong as our weakest link. Therefore, we want to encourage people to find places for their monthly titles to tie in, but only where there's some meaty component of the story to tell. We'd rather have two really strong SECRET INVASION issues of, say, IRON MAN than five tie-in issues that aren't what they should be—the short-term gain will look attractive, but we've got to keep the quality high and the continuity strong. We'd like to build a checklist over the next week or two of which issues of which monthly titles will be direct SECRET INVASION tie-ins.

SELF-CONTAINED TIE-IN BOOKS: Because there are certain monthly titles that cannot directly tie into SECRET INVASION because of the publishing strategies associated with them—the Millar & Hitch FANTASTIC FOUR, for example, or the thrice-monthly AMAZING SPIDER-MAN—we're planning in these cases, when there's a viable tie-in story to be told, to produce dedicated limited series, similar to what we did during HOUSE OF M.

NEW UPCOMING IDEAS OR CHARACTERS THAT CAN DEBUT IN **SECRET INVASION** ITSELF: We want to debut as much new stuff in SECRET INVASION as we can, to leverage the strength of promotion towards their spin-outs or launches. So if you have any titles in the planning stages that you think would be helped by including in SECRET INVASION, we want to know about that as well. We're going to be at least somewhat limited by the amount of material that Bendis already has to cover in the series, but we should explore these possibilities on a case-by-case basis.

THE GUIDELINES:

The potential exists for SECRET INVASION to do wholesale and lasting damage to the Marvel Universe and the publishing line going forward if we are not extremely careful in how we handle the issue of revealing established characters to be Skrulls. As a result, I am going to be a pit-bull when it comes to allowing such revelations to take place outside of the main title. It is absolutely imperative that when SECRET INVASION is finished, the reader feels satisfied that all of the Skrull agents have been ferreted out, and that no more remain in place. Otherwise, we're going to be at a point where the reader can't trust what he's reading in the stories to be true. So everybody needs to be aware of this concern, and operating with one eye towards maintaining the sanctity of the bedrock of our fictional universe at all times. So if you want to reveal that some long-standing character in your series has been a Skrull for a long period of time, you'd best be prepared to show how this works and prove that this isn't going to cause more and greater problems long-term. We need to keep the Pandora's Box closed.

Another thing to keep in mind is that, among our sect of "true believer" Skrulls, there are less than a hundred in total. These Skrulls are as-yet undetectable by any means yet used. They baffle Wolverine's senses, and defy Doctor Strange's abilities.

When the actual attack goes off, the Skrulls field a wide assortment of new Super-Skrulls, whose abilities individually are a random mix-and-match of the powers of the various superhumans of Earth. Where the classic Super-Skrull had all the powers of the Fantastic Four, these guys will individually have the powers of any super-team you may choose to name. These guys are the foot soldiers and the shock troops of the invasion, so they can be used fairly prevalently throughout the event as the need arises.

Another general note: especially over the last decade or so, the Skrulls have really lost their menace, being depicted as another dopey alien race. That cannot be the case here. Our Skrulls have to come across always as formidable and dedicated and competent. From their point of view, this is a war for the survival of their species, and on some level a religious jihad. These guys aren't stupid or goofy, and never should be depicted as such.

This event will only be as strong as its weakest component, so we'll be making every effort to make sure that any tie-ins are necessary and important, and contribute meaningfully in some way, either to the main event or to the contributing title.

THE MONTHLY BEATS AS WE KNOW THEM NOW:

So that you and your creators can plan, here is a brief outline of the basic beats of SECRET INVASION as they now stand. Much of this stuff is subject to change as we develop better ideas, but this will at least give you a general road map towards planning. The later we get into this outline, the looser and more fluid things become.

PRE-APRIL
NEW AVENGERS – Battling the Hand in Japan, the New Avengers learn that Elektra, the Hand leader, is a Skrull. This revelation fractures the trust of the team. Spider-Woman escapes with the body of the dead Skrull Elektra, intending to take it to Tony Stark. In the aftermath of an attack by the Hood's underworld, Jessica Jones takes her baby and leaves Luke Cage, turning to the Mighty Avengers for sanctuary. An attempt to replace Echo with a Skrull infiltrator is foiled.
MIGHTY AVENGERS – Spider-Woman brings the Skrull Elektra body to Tony Stark, alerting him to the potential conspiracy. This begins to get the wheels turning in his head, and casts suspicion on any number of events over the course of the last year, going back to the formation of the New Avengers.
NEW AVENGERS: ILLUMINATI – Iron Man takes the Skrull Elektra body to

the Illuminati to inform them about the conspiracy. During the meeting, the Black Bolt in attendance reveals himself to be a Skrull infiltrator, and along with two other Super-Skrulls almost succeeds in wiping out the Illuminati. The Illuminati part ways, knowing they cannot trust one another.

AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE – We reveal that a high-ranking member of the Initiative's administration is a Skrull, and that he's been manipulating the system to place a Skrull infiltrator onto each of the established Fifty State initiative super-teams that have been set up.

CAPTAIN MARVEL – In the course of this limited series, we discover that the Captain Marvel who appeared during CIVIL WAR is actually a Skrull infiltrator—but he refuses to believe it or accept it, having embraced the role of Mar-Vell so thoroughly.

MS. MARVEL – Evidence points to Ms. Marvel being a Skrull infiltrator, and Tony Stark orders S.H.I.E.L.D. to take her down and bring her in. This is eventually proven to be a false trail.

APRIL

SECRET INVASION #1

–A Skrull ship crash lands in the Savage Land, setting off a race to get to the ship between the New Avengers and the Mighty Avengers.

–Tony Stark leaves Reed Richards and Hank Pym in the midst of an autopsy on the Elektra Skrull to join the pursuit. Reed and Hank continue with the autopsy, trying to devise a way to detect the Skrull infiltrators.

–Spider-Woman notifies Luke Cage and the New Avengers of the Skrull ship, getting them to join in the pursuit.

–As the two teams face off in the Savage Land, and the Skrull pod is opened, a trigger signal is sent out to the Skrull infiltrators around the world.

–A Dum Dum Dugan Skrull destroys the S.W.O.R.D. space station.

–A Jarvis Skrull unleashes a virus into S.H.I.E.L.D.'s systems and throughout Stark technology, paralyzing and destroying them. Tony Stark is struck down as though ill as a result of this.

–The S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier crashes down into the sea.

–The security systems on the Raft and the Cube prisons stop functioning, letting the inmates out into the world. Among those released is Marvel Boy.

–Captain Marvel attacks Thunderbolts Mountain.

–A Skrull works his way into the Baxter Building and throws open the Negative Zone gateway, beginning to draw the building and the team into the Negative Zone.

–In the Savage Land, the pod opens—and earlier, classic versions of a dozen Marvel heroes emerge, claiming to have just escaped from the Skrulls. They face off against the assembled heroes, nobody quite knowing who is real and who is not.

–In the autopsy room, Hank Pym reveals himself as a Skrull infiltrator and shoots Reed Richards.

–And high above, beyond Earth orbit, the Skrull space fleet has arrived.

NEW AVENGERS #40
MIGHTY AVENGERS #12

MAY

SECRET INVASION #2

–The classic heroes from the pod and the modern Avengers engage in a wild melee, which is only broken up by stampeding dinosaurs.

–Tony dispatches Ms. Marvel to leave the battle site and return to Manhattan to see what is going on elsewhere in the world while the Avengers are all tied up in the Savage Land.

–Paranoia among the Avengers in the Savage Land is at an all-time high, as each hero literally cannot trust anybody, so scattered and chaotic has the battle become.

–Ronin (Clint Barton) is reunited with his long-dead wife Mockingbird, who emerged from the pod. Or is she a Skrull? Or is he?

–In Manhattan, the Young Avengers witness the Baxter Building being sucked into the Negative Zone, and are on hand as Super-Skrull troops begin emerging from their ships in force.

NEW AVENGERS #41
MIGHTY AVENGERS #13

JUNE

SECRET INVASION #3

–On the downed S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier in the ocean, the Skrull Jarvis confronts Maria Hill, asking for humanity's surrender.

–In Thunderbolts Mountain, Norman Osborn gets under the Skrull Captain Marvel's skin, halting his attack.

–At Camp Hammond, Hank Pym mobilizes the Initiative recruits and teams into action against the invading Super-Skrulls.

–In Manhattan, the Young Avengers battle Super-Skrulls, eventually aided by the Initiative kids. But they're all overwhelmed and defeated.

–In the Savage Land, Spider-Woman confronts Tony Stark, revealing that she is a Skrull infiltrator, and that he is too. Tony isn't sure what to believe.

–Back in Manhattan, the Skrulls begin executing the fallen heroes, but are halted by the arrival of Nick Fury and his all-new team of super-powered Howling Commandos.

NEW AVENGERS #42
MIGHTY AVENGERS #14
AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #14

JULY

SECRET INVASION #4

–Aboard the Skrull flagship, we learn that Reed isn't dead, but he is being tortured by the Skrulls. We learn of the origins of this attack, dating back to the first ILLUMINATI issue, set during the Kree/Skrull War.

–Fury's team rescues the fallen heroes in New York, and he begins to set up a counter-offensive.

–During the chaos, the Hood and his super-villain underworld join the fray.

NEW AVENGERS #43
MIGHTY AVENGERS #15
AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #15

AUGUST

SECRET INVASION #5

–The Skrulls consolidate their hold on the world.

–More evidence that Tony is a Skrull. Spider-Woman throws Tony to the wolves, outing him as a Skrull to the assembled heroes in the Savage Land.

–Reed escapes from captivity aboard the Skrull ship.

–Fury's crew is divided from within and broken apart by Skrull infiltrators.

NEW AVENGERS #44
MIGHTY AVENGERS #16
AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #16

SEPTEMBER

SECRET INVASION #6

–The Thunderbolts fight back on the steps of Washington, D.C. Heroic images of these once-villains taking it to the enemy.

–Besieged on all sides, Tony receives information from Reed aboard the Skrull ship that allows him to neutralize and unmask the Skrull infiltrators. Now proper battle lines can be drawn.

–Regrouped Avengers race to Manhattan to take the fight back to the invaders.

–Downtrodden resistance heroes in New York are rallied by the appearance of the new Captain America.

–Thor appears to bail the heroes out and turn the tide.

NEW AVENGERS #45
MIGHTY AVENGERS #17
AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #17

OCTOBER

SECRET INVASION #7

–Heroes battle back the Skrulls.

–Classic Avengers triumvirate is united for the first time in years: Thor, Captain America and Iron Man.

–Skrull Captain Marvel sacrifices himself to destroy the Super-Skrull army.

–Iron Man assembles a strike force to journey into Skrull territory and end the fight once and for all.

NEW AVENGERS #46
MIGHTY AVENGERS #18
AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #18

NOVEMBER

SECRET INVASION #8

–Pods are found among the Skrulls with the missing people/heroes in them. Now we have a clear list of who was replaced and for how long.

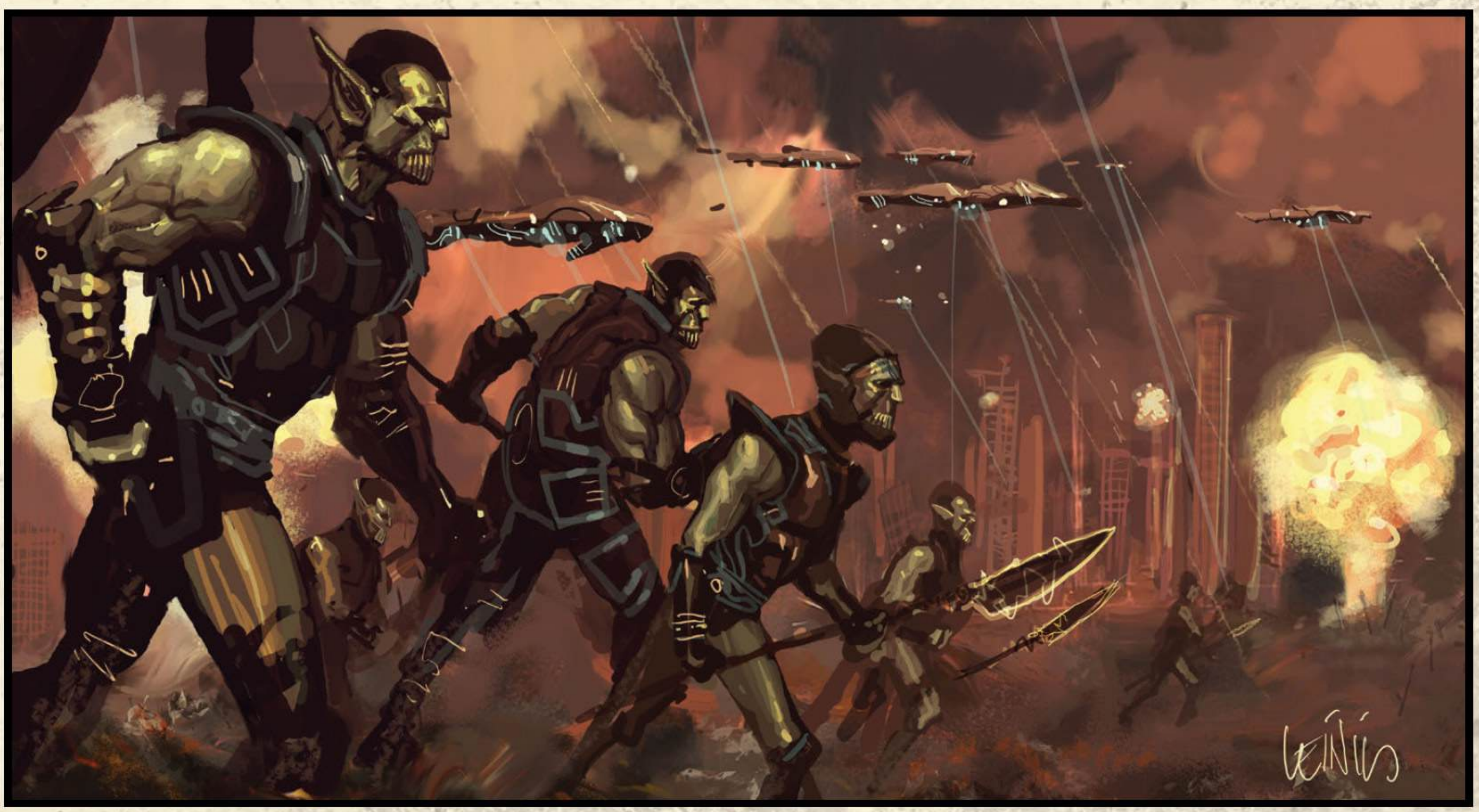
–Spider-Woman/Skrull Queen makes her final stand with doomsday weapon. Sentry defeats it at the cost of much of his power.

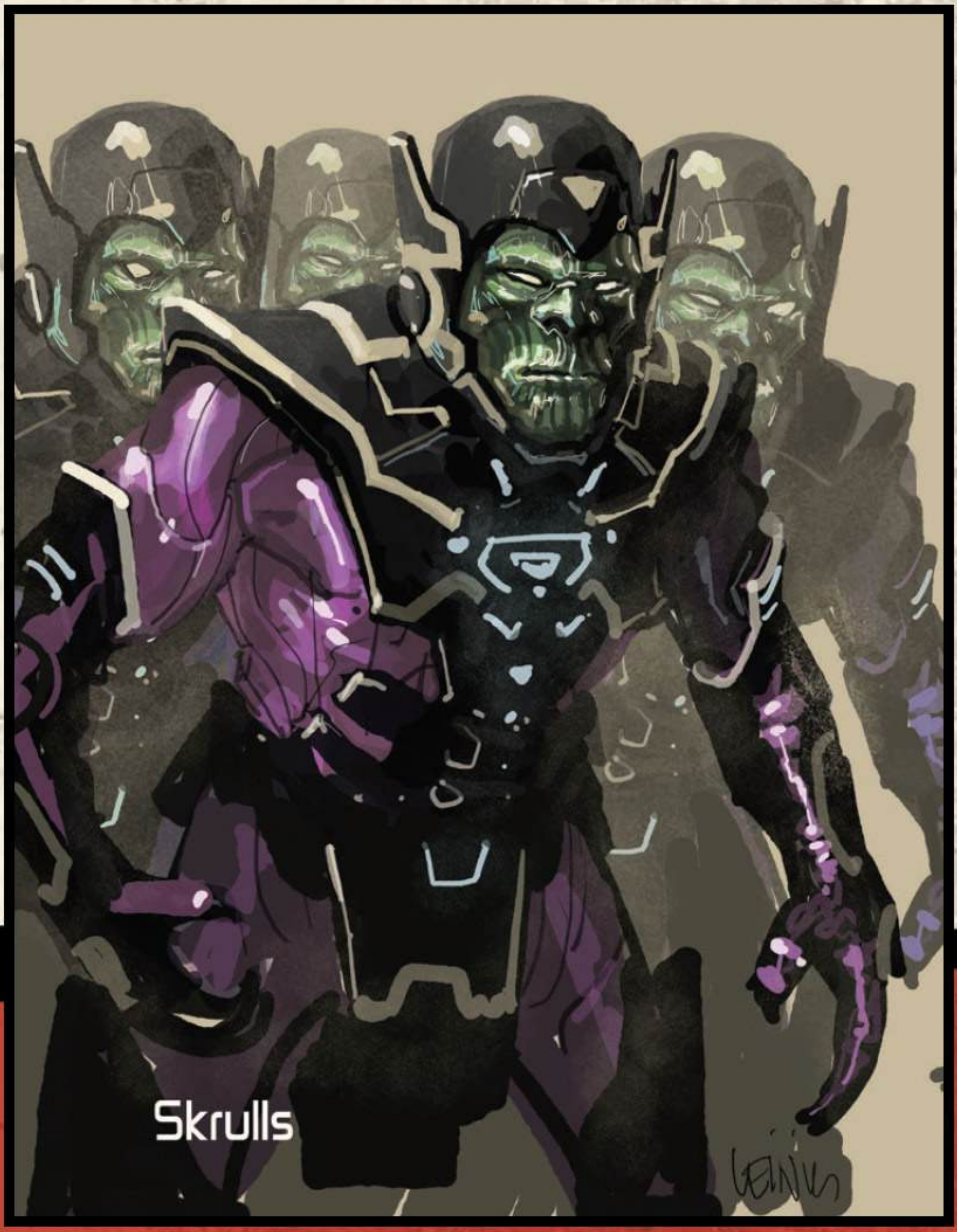
–Skrull Jarvis has disappeared into the world with the Cage baby which had been left in his care.

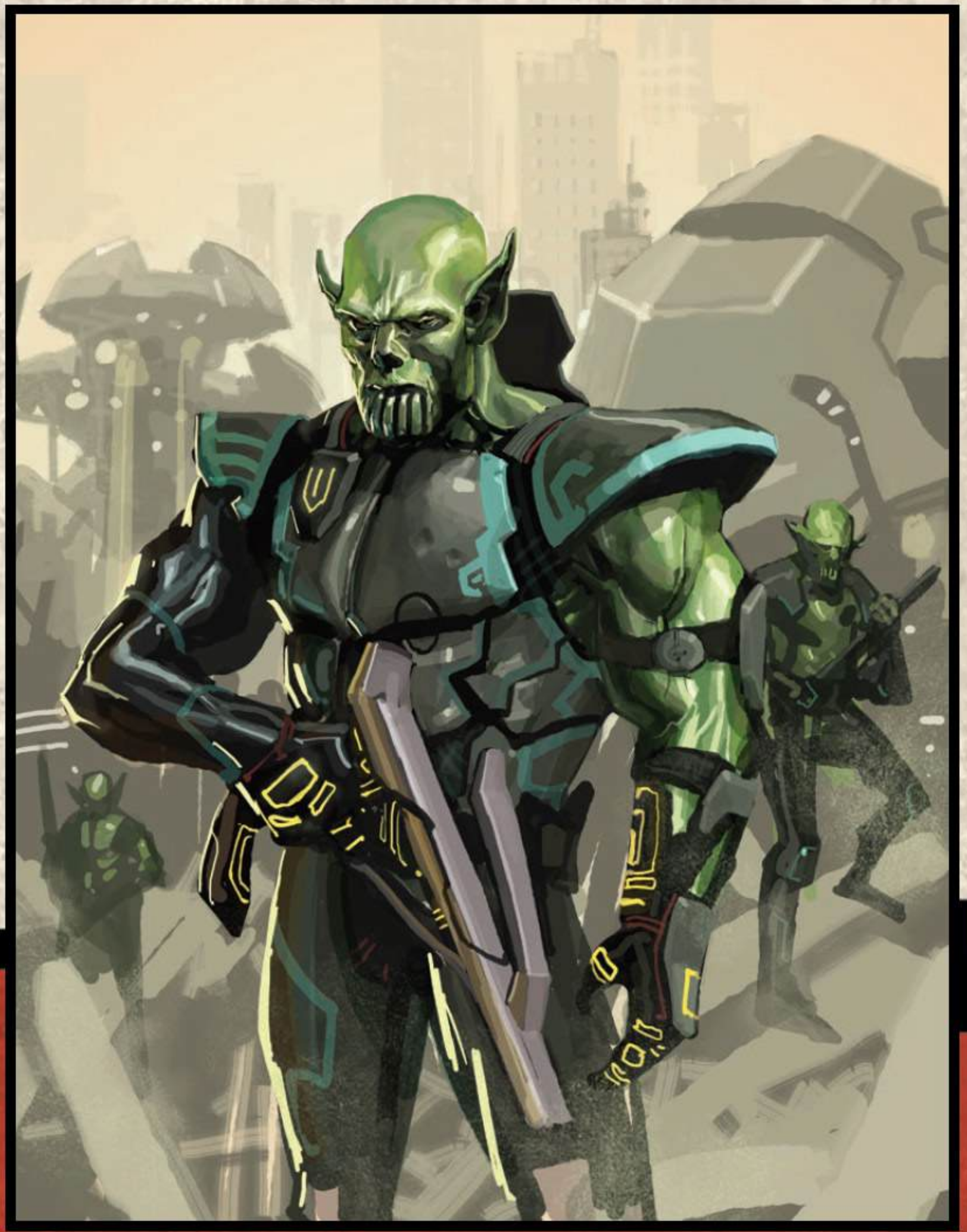
–Tony is devastated as Thor tells him he only fought beside him because of necessity, and they will never be friends again. The Avengers reunion falls apart, and Tony is left alone, the victory a hollow one.

–Norman Osborn holds the first meeting of the Villain Illuminati.

NEW AVENGERS #47
MIGHTY AVENGERS #19
AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #19

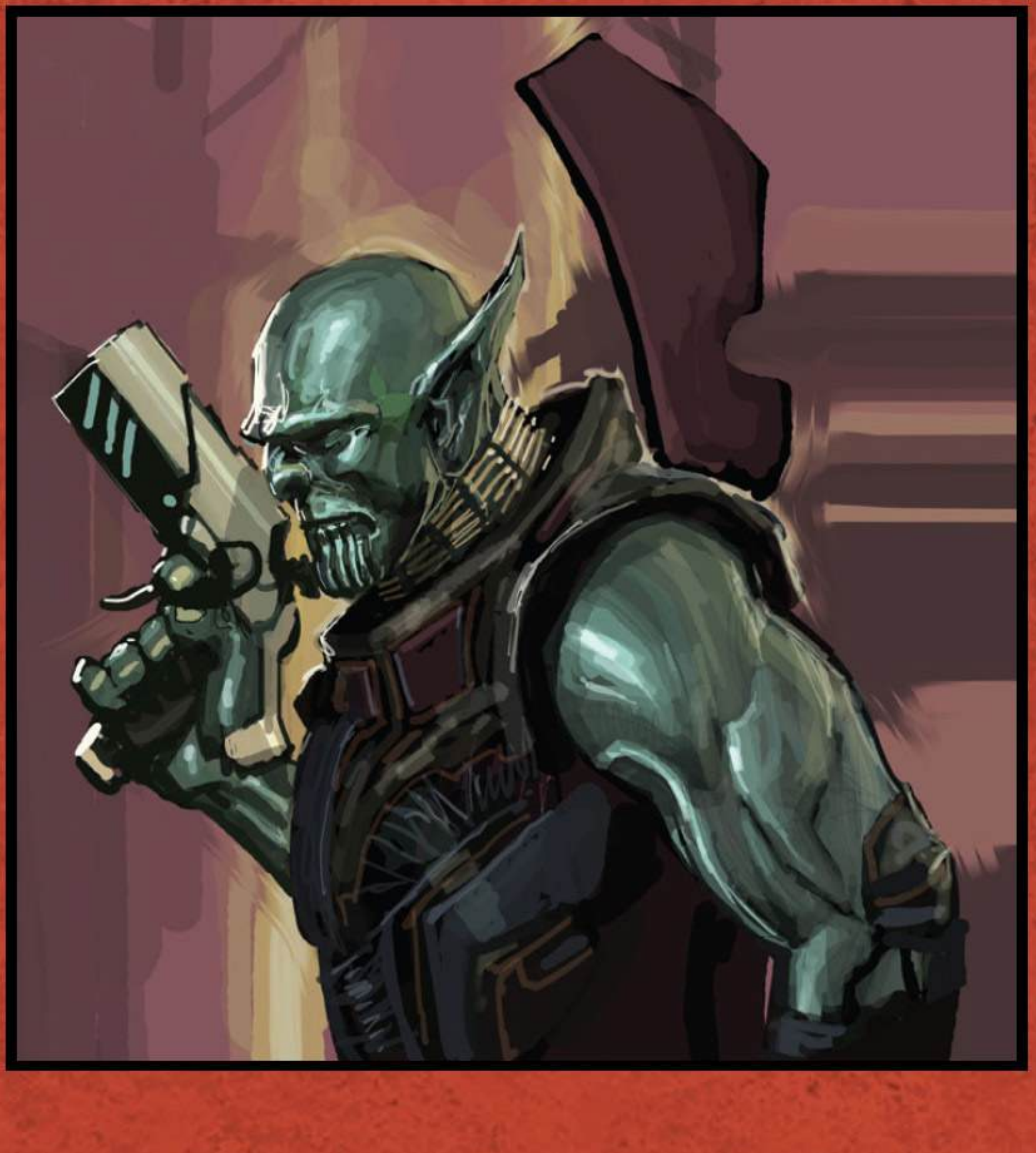


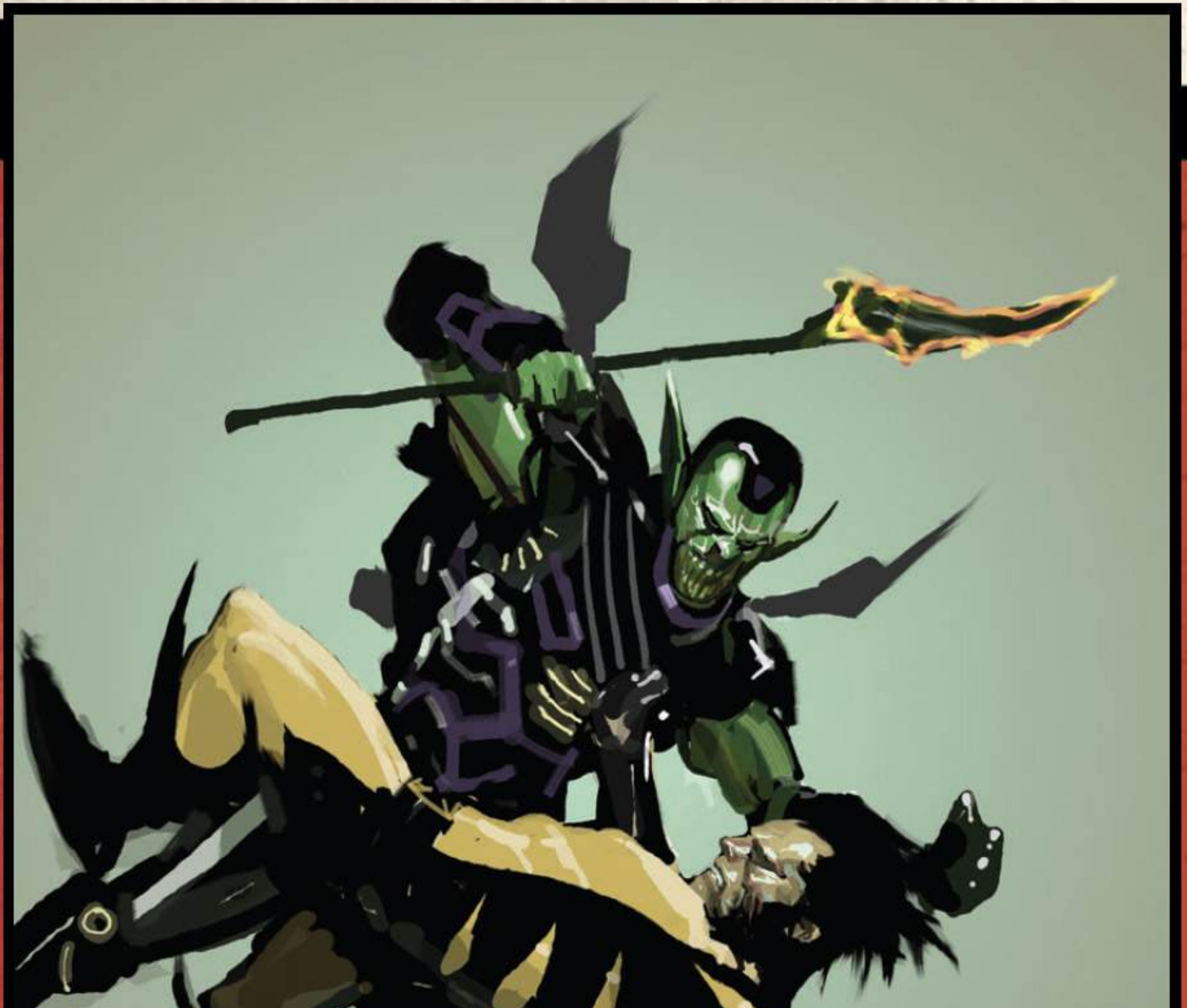




CONCEPTUAL SKETCHES AND DESIGN

BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU**

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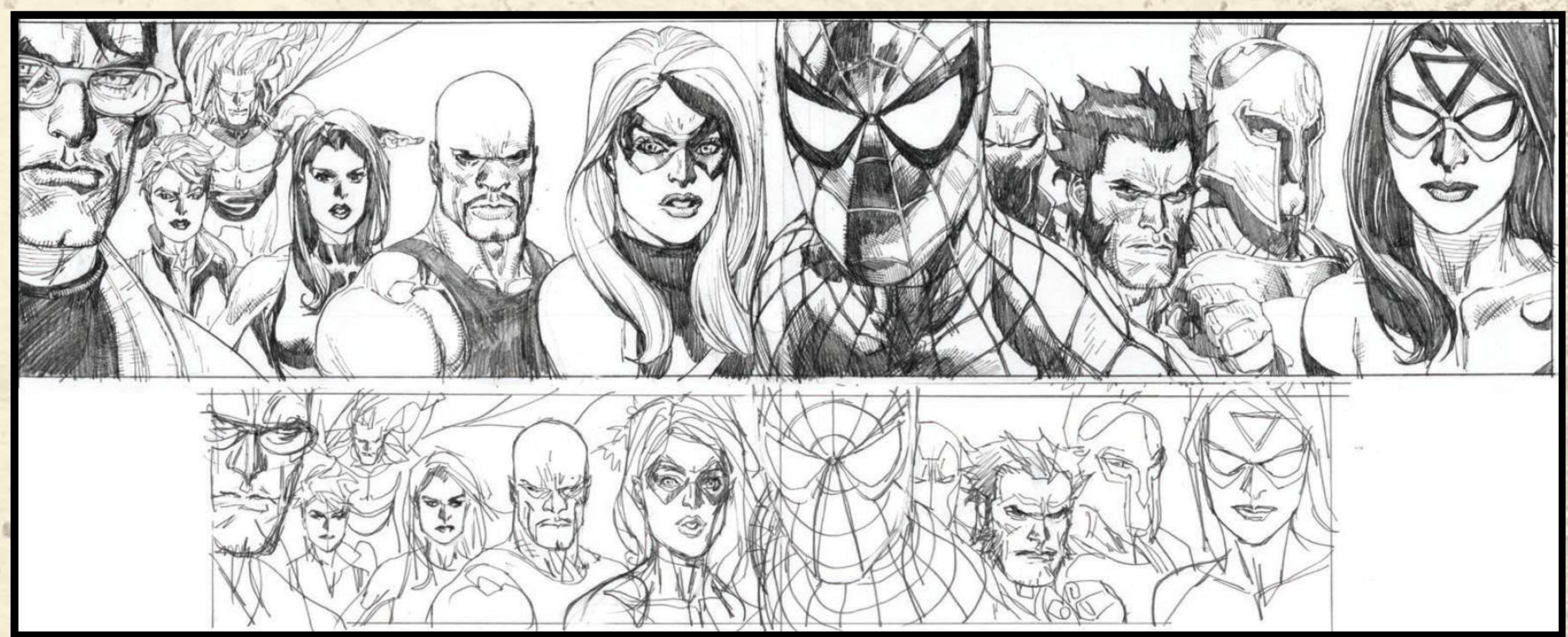

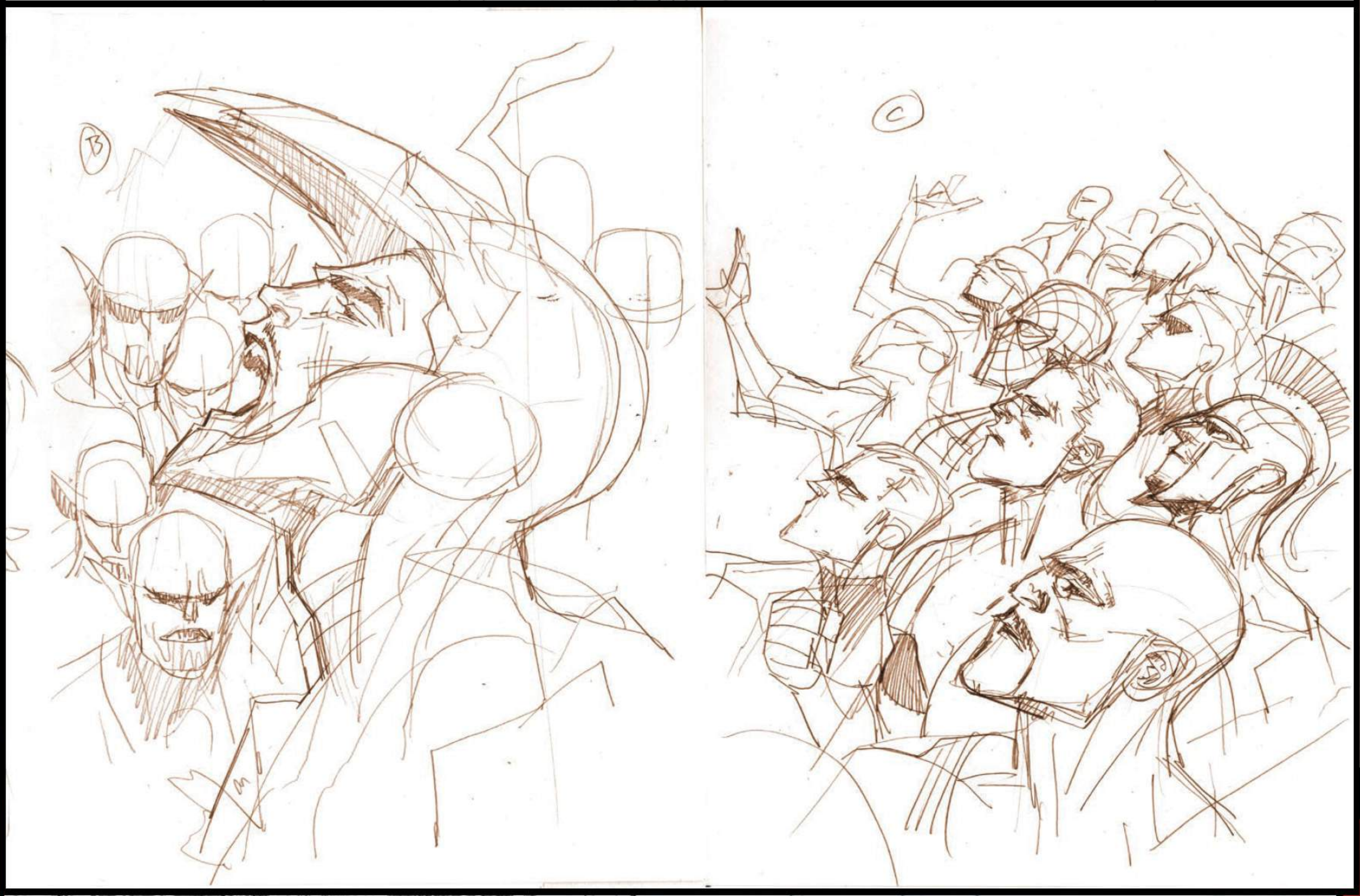
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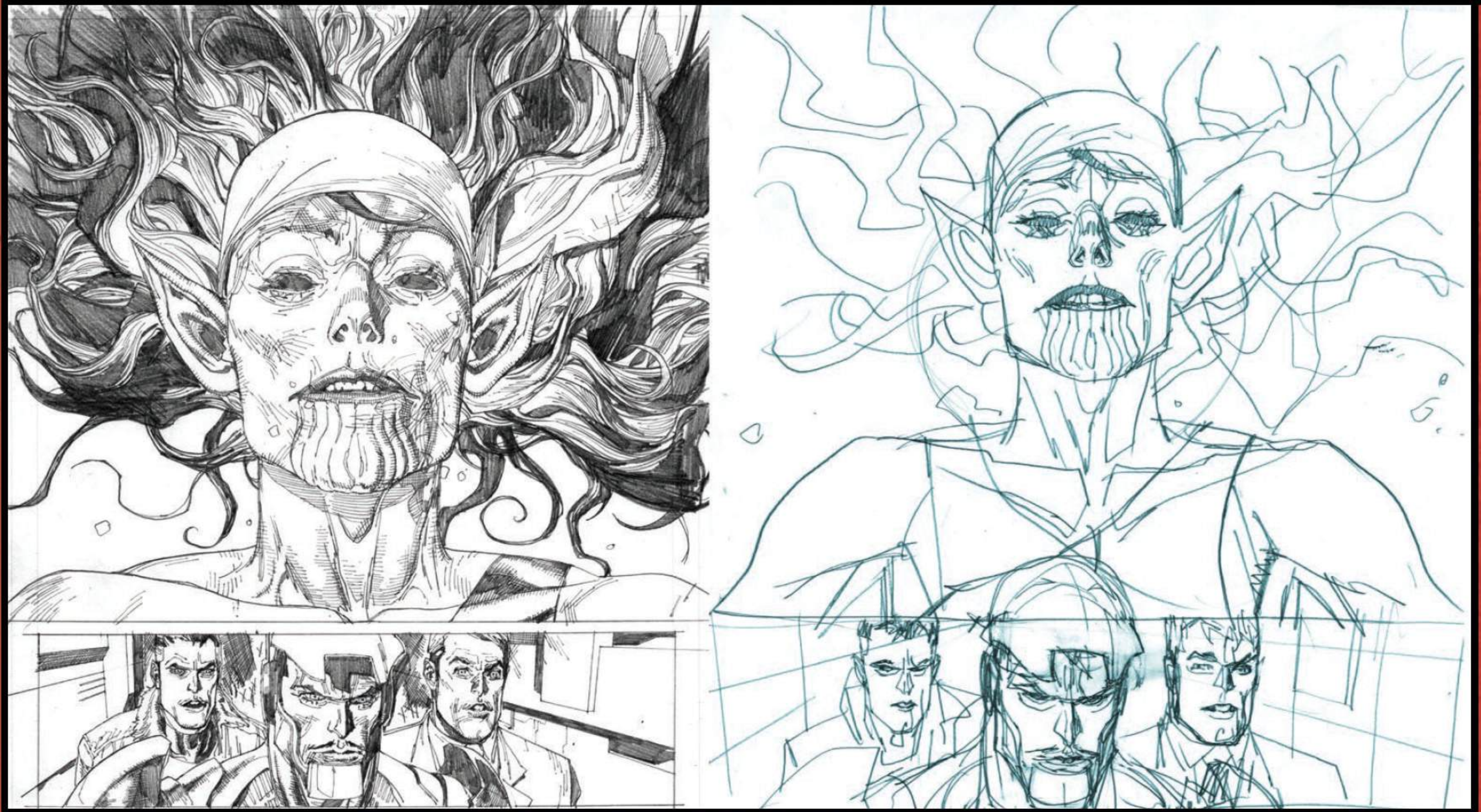
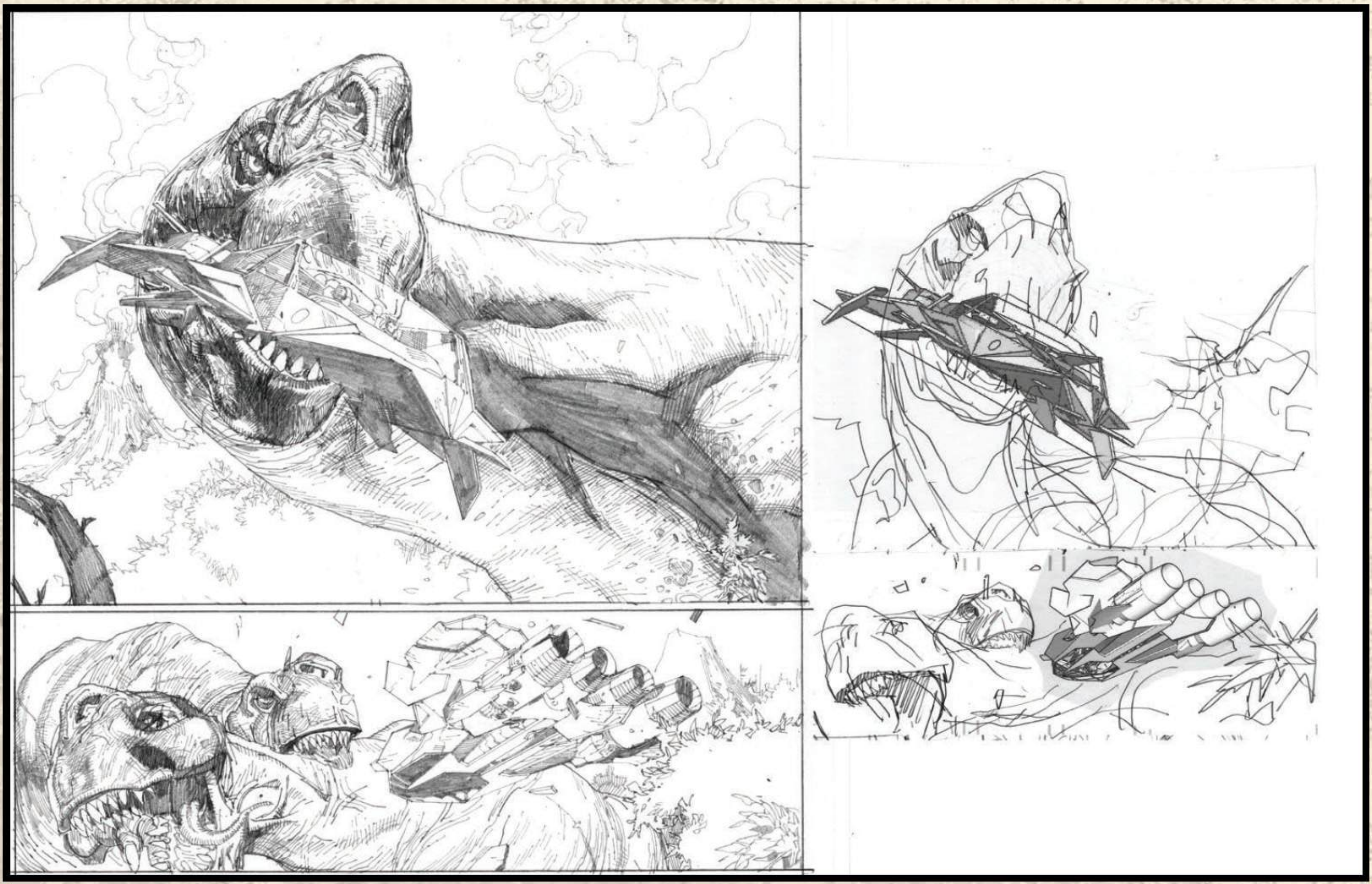
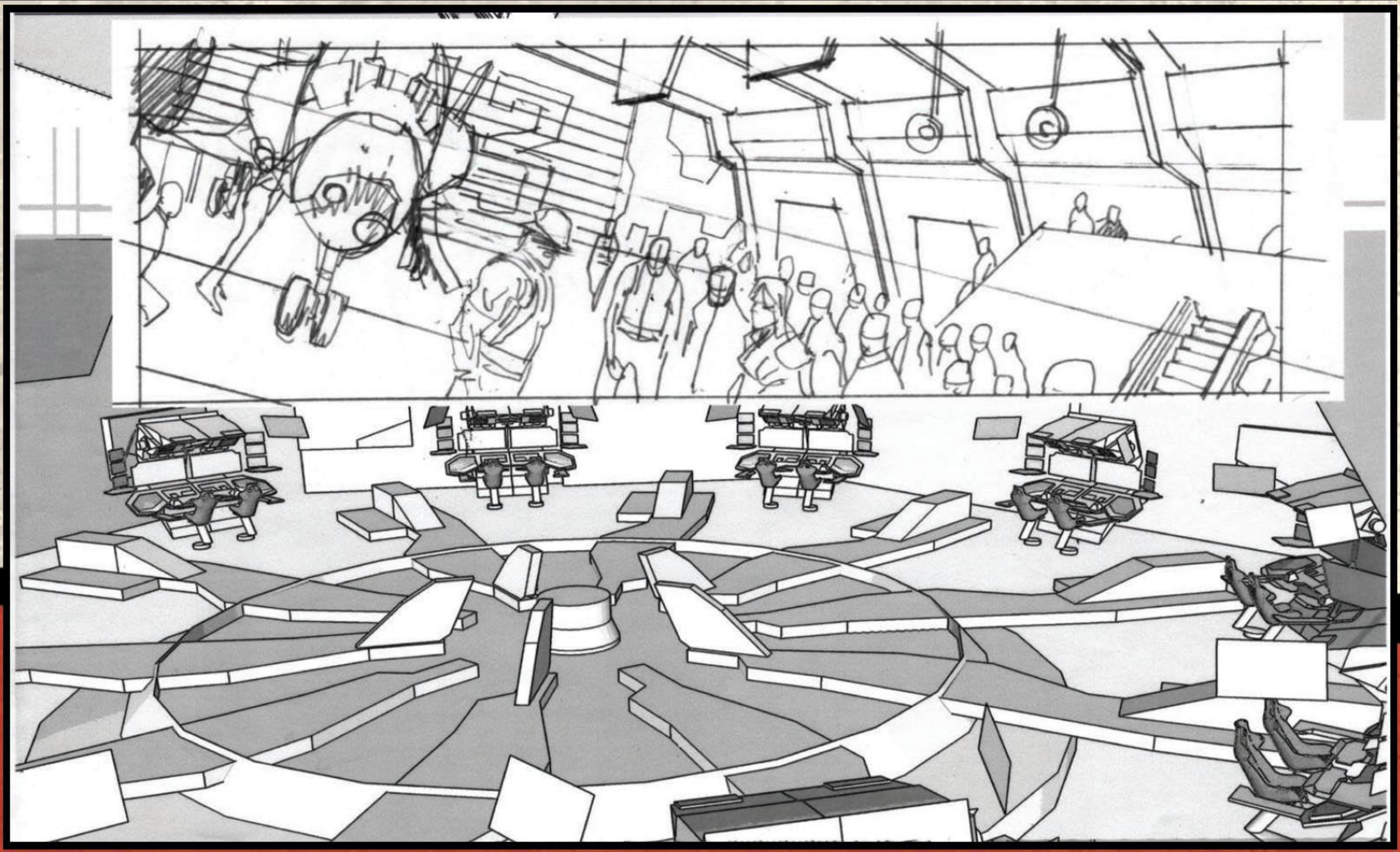
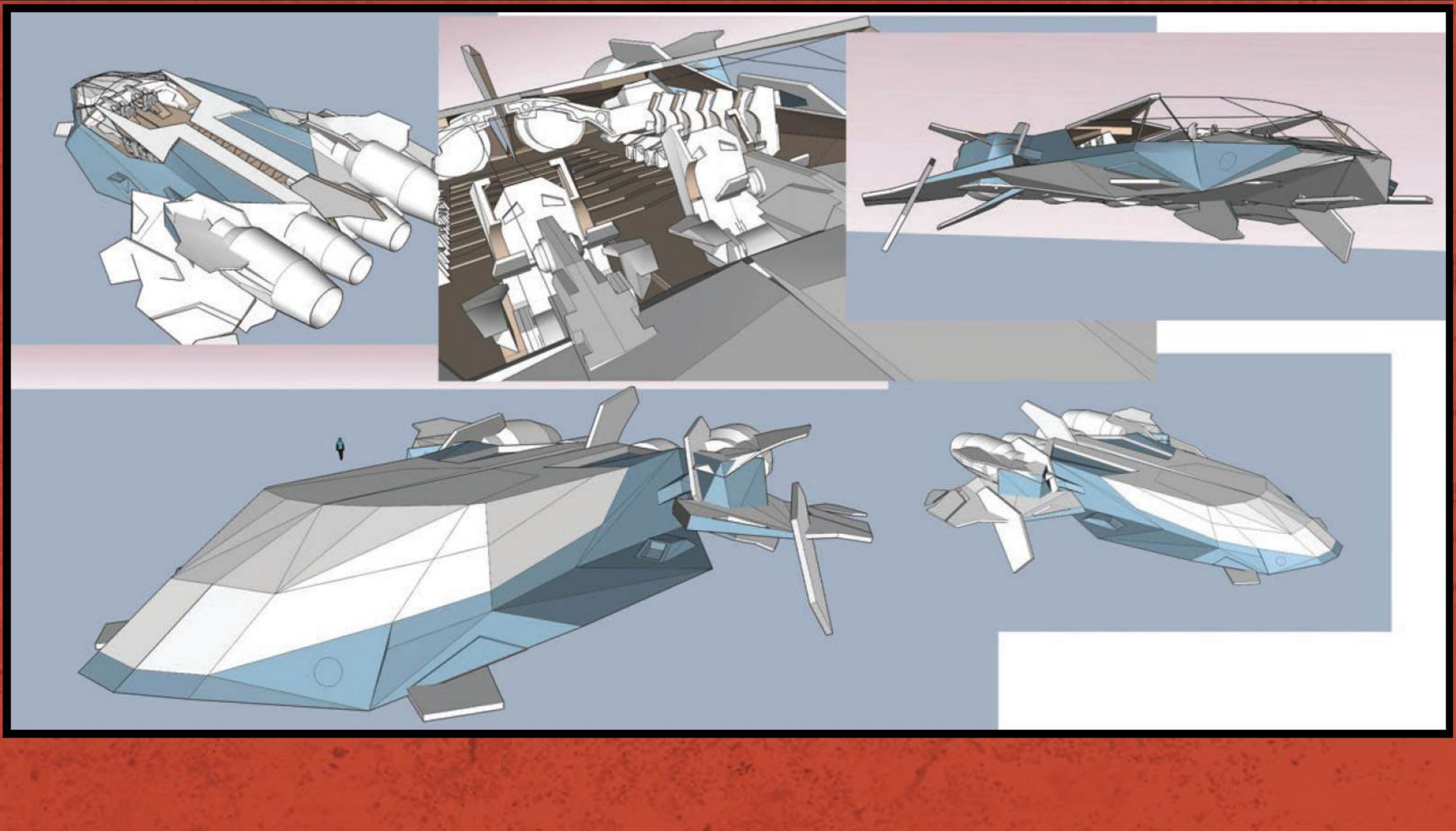
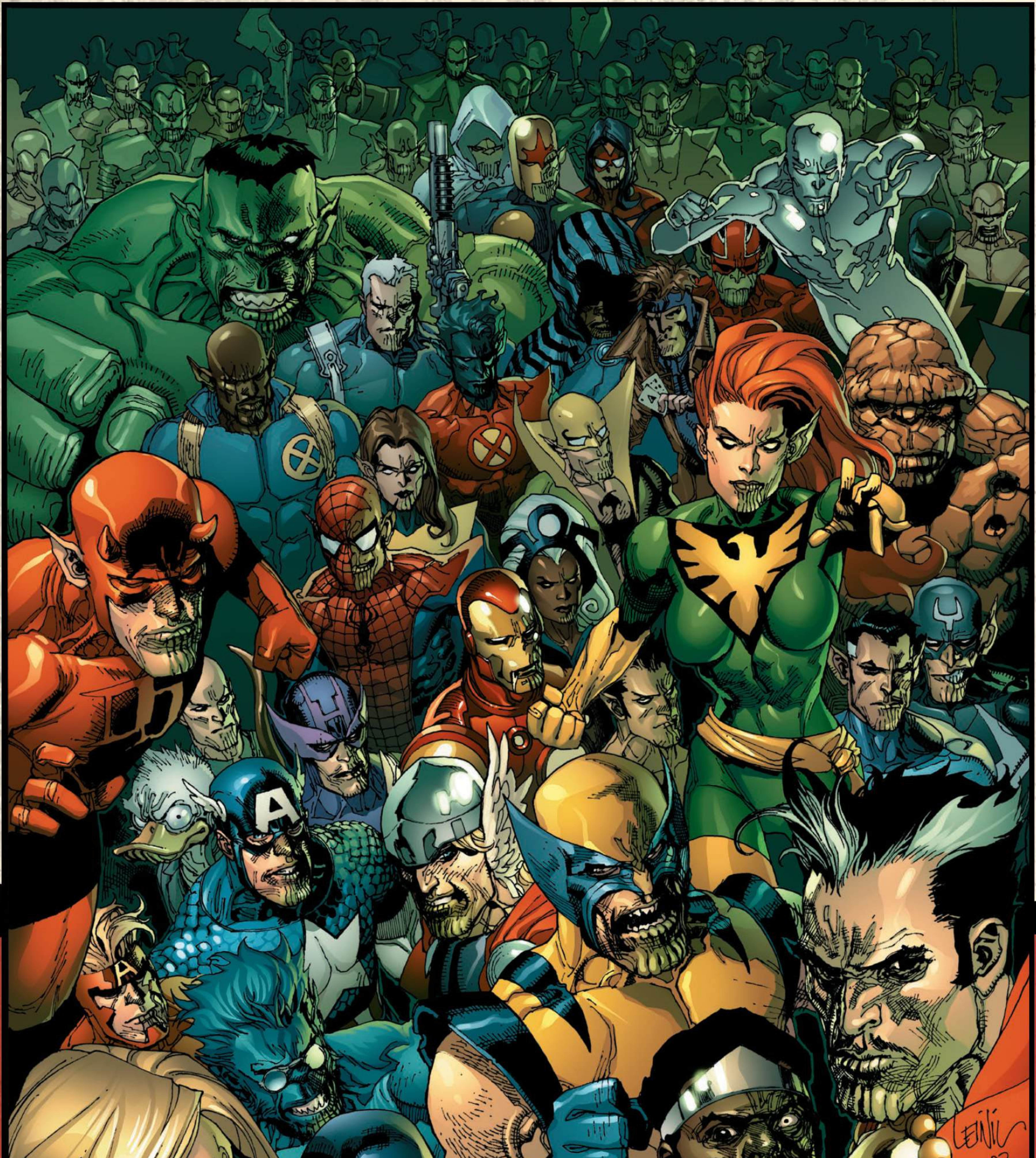




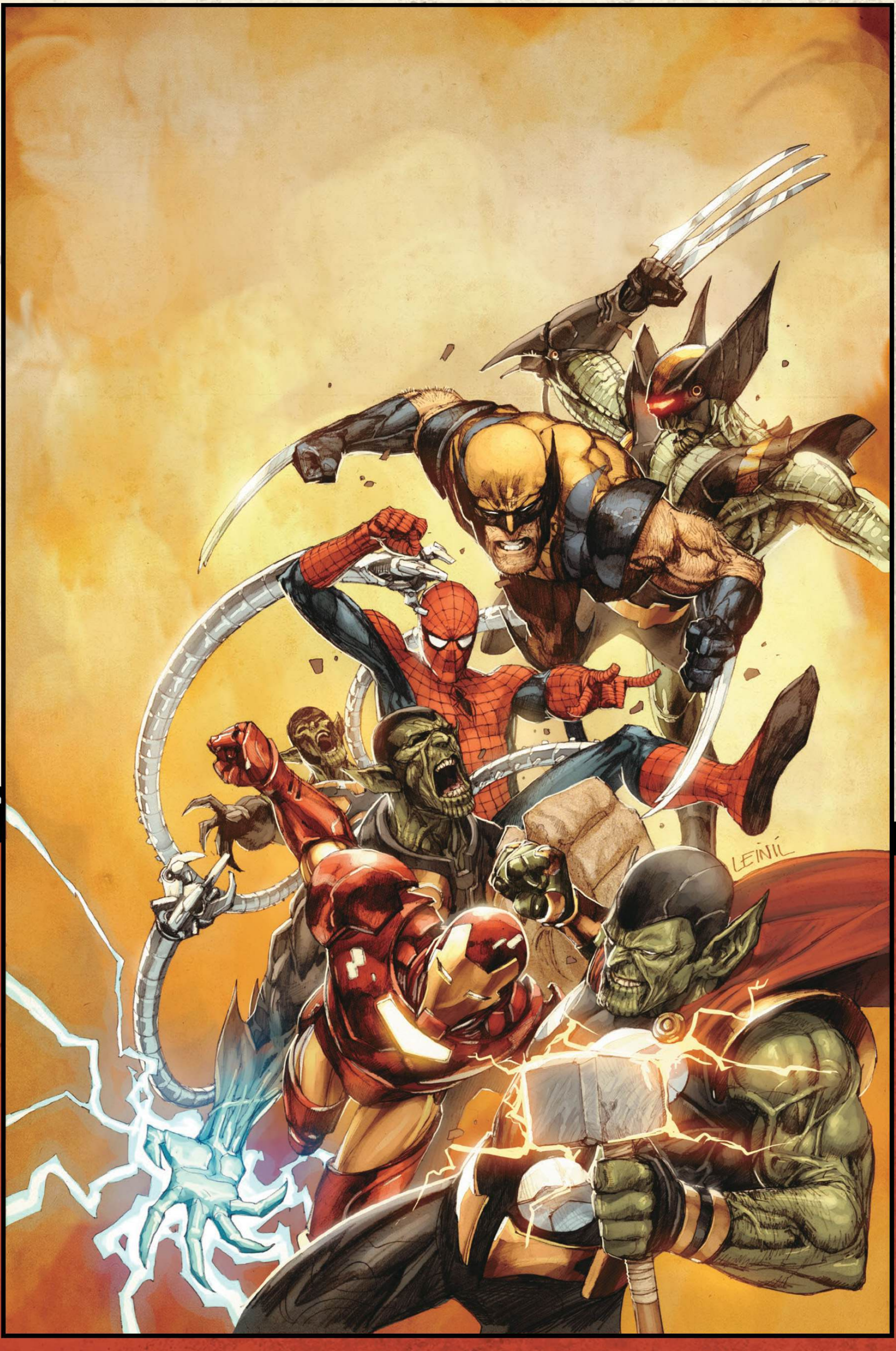




PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU**

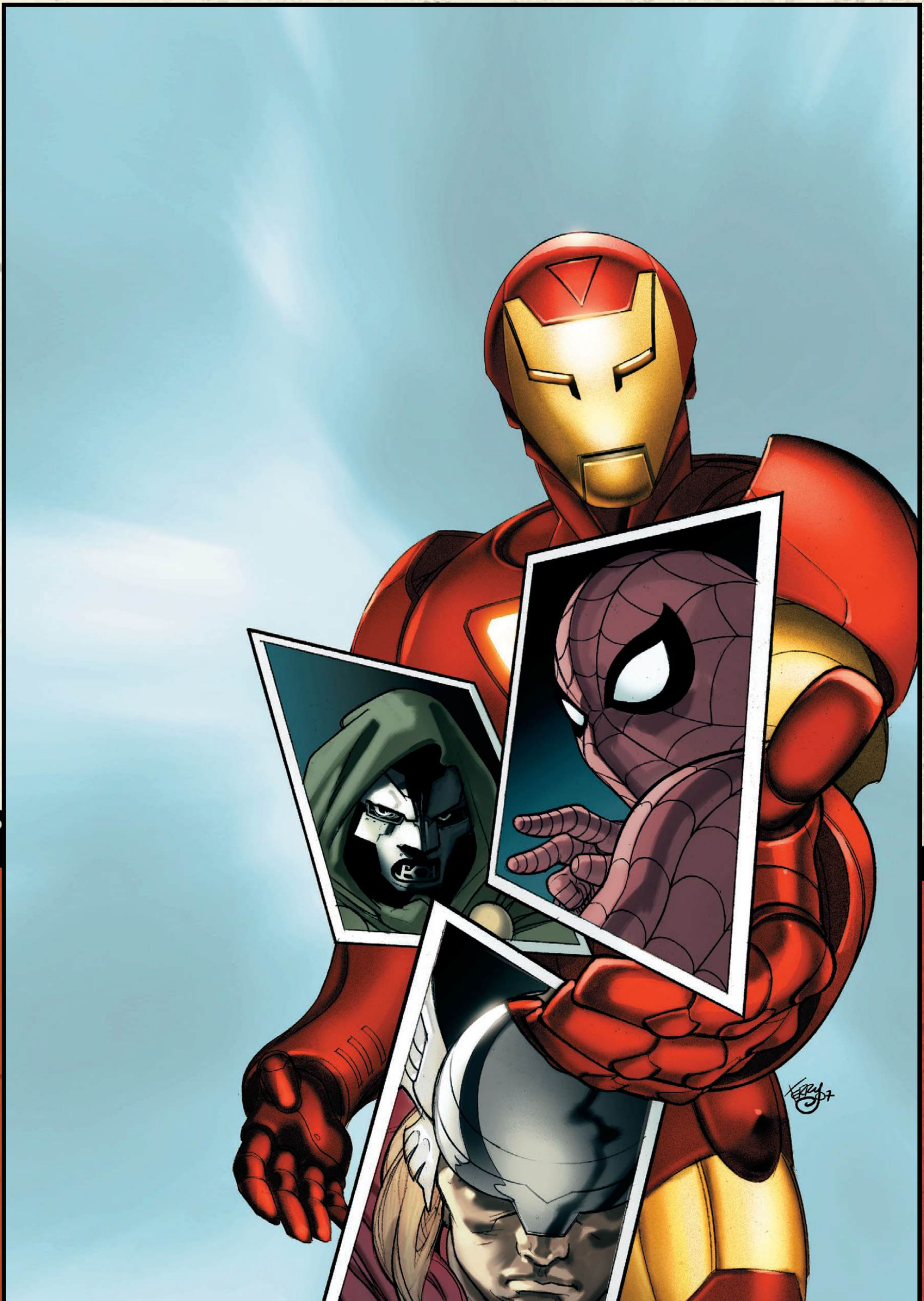


PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK WITH COLORS BY **LAURA MARTIN**



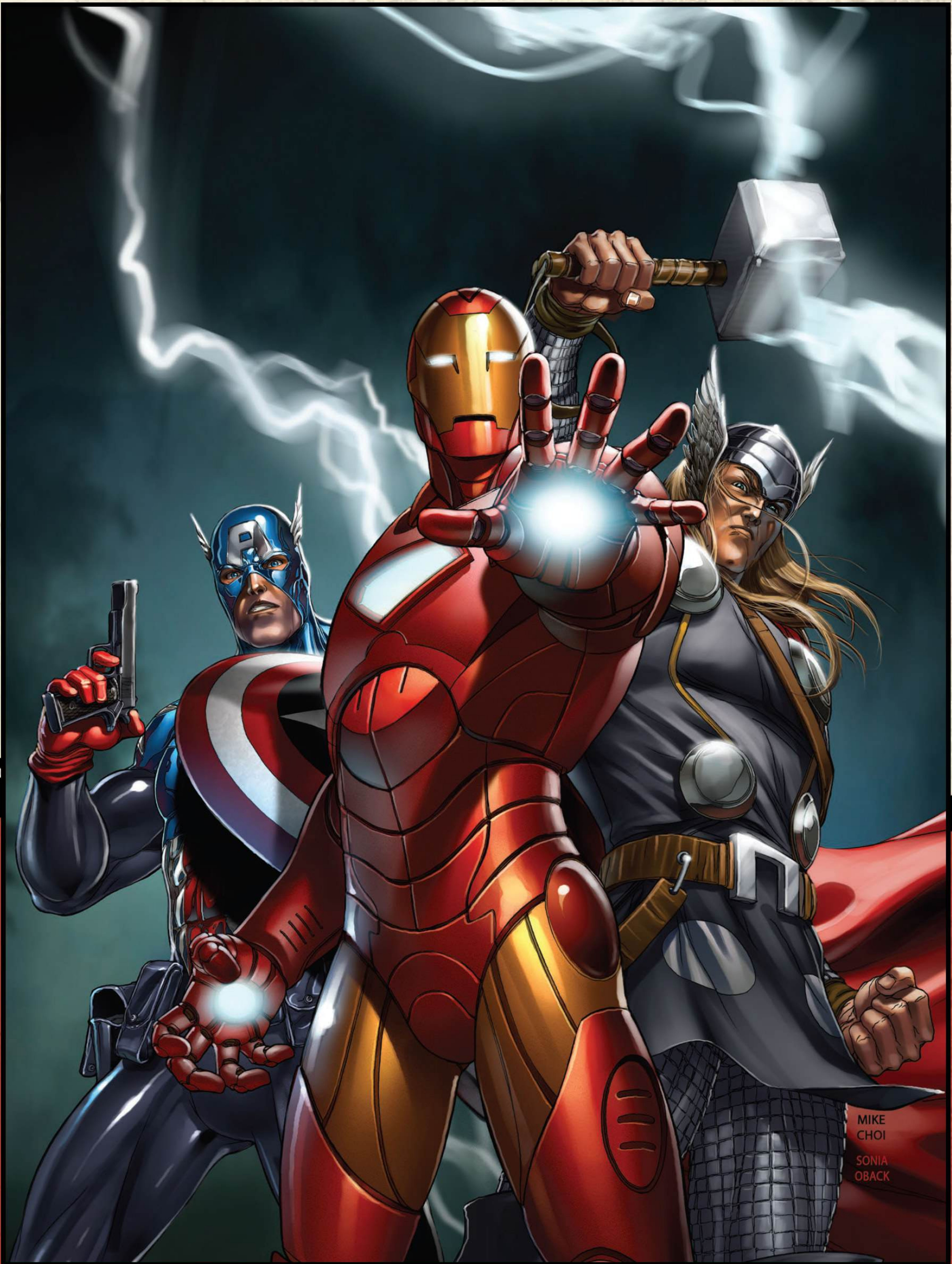
COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE #1642 COVER ART BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU**

WIZARD #190 COVER ART BY **GREG HORN**

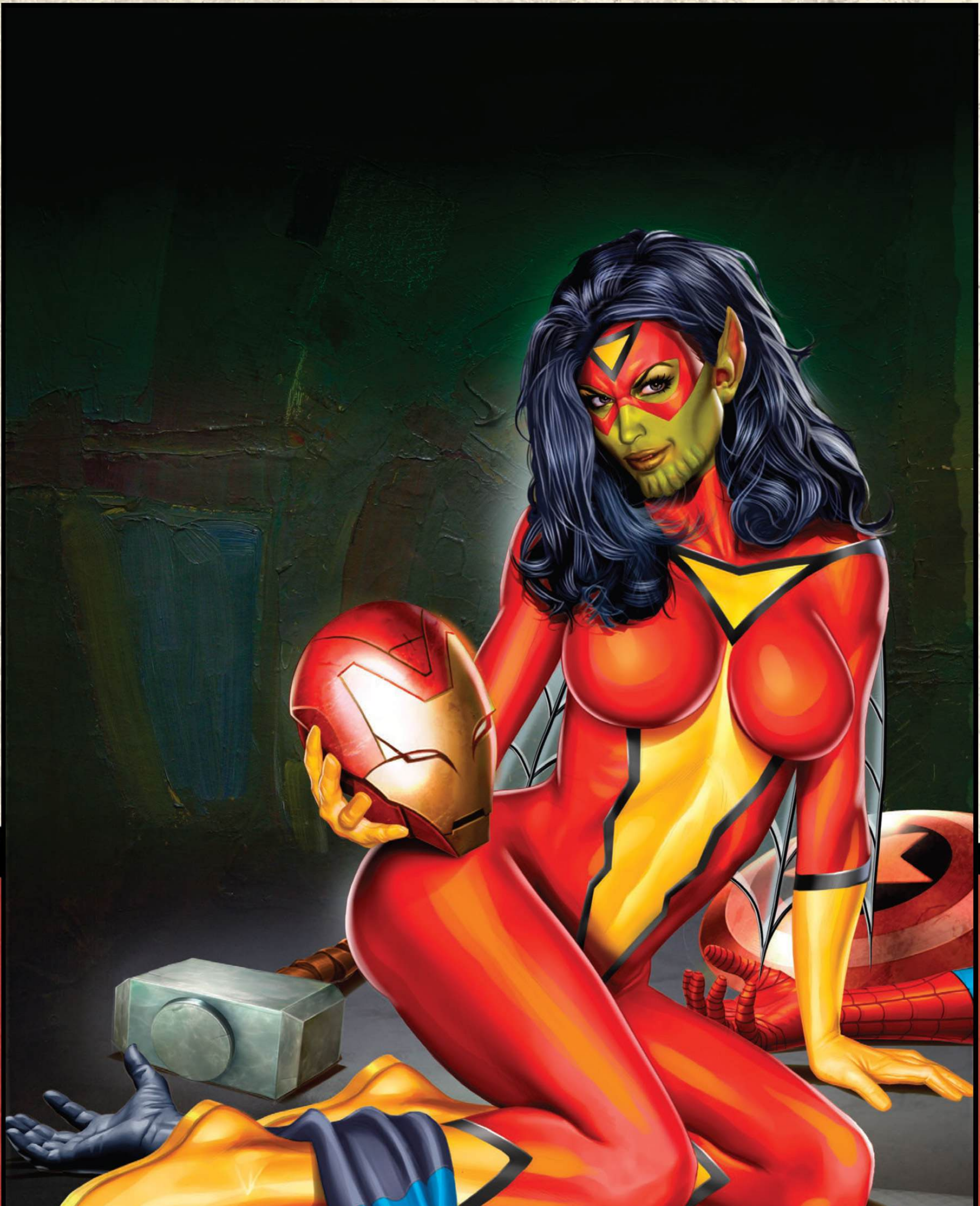


WIZARD #196 COVER ART BY **PASQUAL FERRY**

WIZARD #199 COVER ART BY **FRANK CHO**


MIKE
CHOI
SONIA
OBACK

WIZARD #204 COVER ART BY **MIKE CHOI** & **SONIA OBACK**



WIZARD #206 COVER ART BY **GREG HORN**

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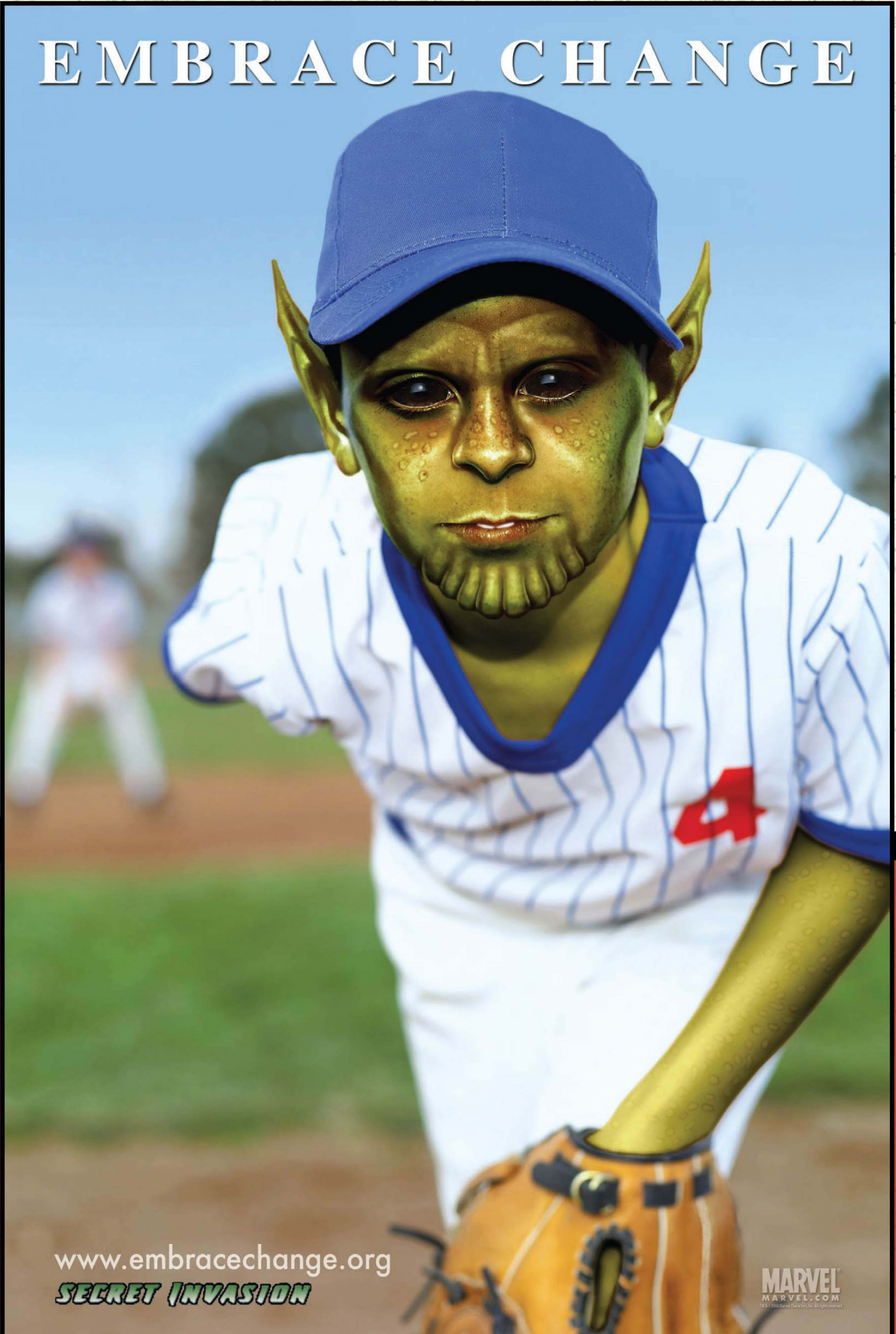
SECRET INVASION

MARVEL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SECRET INVASION

ISSUE 1 SCRIPT
By Brian Michael Bendis

PAGE 1

A page from the Skrull book of worlds.

Not parchment, not written scroll. This is an advanced civilization.

Their archives and everything about how they present the world would be non-earthly. Not space font. Just not paper and ink and not cliché or human.

This design should be a connecting recap page design for all tie–ins.

“A wave of destruction. Nothingness. And Out of nothingness will you outstretch your hand and take in that which needs you. Only then will the doors to the heavens open for you and your brothers.”

—the book of worlds, passage of the 11
(translated from the Frti dialect)

PAGE 2–3

Double page spread

We’re opening the issue on an alien world/dimension. Go all out on this visually. Full out imagination. I hate alien worlds that look like old Star Trek sets.

The colors are bold. Nothing is the color of our world because this system doesn’t have the same sun or atmosphere.

Pink skies and purple rocks. Plus I would love to do a valentine to the Euro sci–fi comics. Moebius, Bilal, Manara etc.

On the subject of color, save the greens for the Skrulls. No green anywhere unless it’s a Skrull reveal. And that green should be a dark green, a forest green. Not a bright or florescent green.

1) Ext. Alien world– day

A thin, widescreen panel of a barren alien landscape. A harsh wind blows. It’s an unlivable environment for any creature.

There is a small cave opening in the side of a small mountain.

Caption reads: one year ago

2) The silhouette shapes of a small gathering of Skrull warriors are hiking over a rocky terrain. Like in Kurosawa’s Ran. These odd shaped warriors approach in the mist.

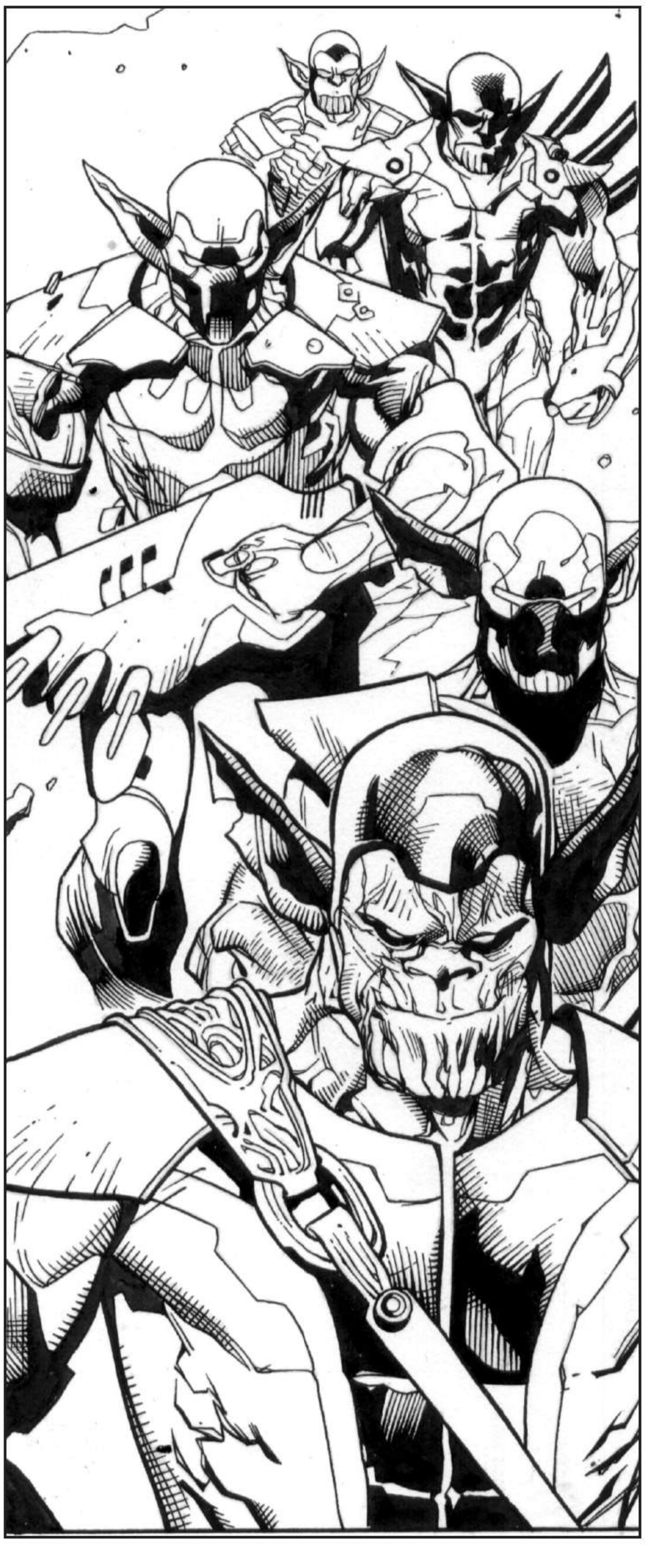
A hint of a flora unlike anything we have ever seen. Colors we have never seen because we’re in an atmosphere that is not oxygen and the color of the sun is not yellow and that makes all the colors of the world not what we are used to seeing.

3) Tight on the cave opening. There is a wrapped, hooded figure in there. But just a hint of them in the shadows. Someone who has lived on this desolate planet for far too long with nothing but their wits and whatever they can find to keep them alive.

4) The Skrull warriors step forward. Our first good look. They are dressed in full combat gear. With full armada weapons on their backs and in their hands.

This is a serious black ops Skrull mission and these are the most serious warriors to do it.

Alien Skrull font for this scene.



SKRULL CAPTAIN
A skrullworld has been destroyed and the armada is close to ruins.

5) Same as 3, but the hooded figure has stepped into the light of day. Still not giving us a good look at their identity but we see more clearly it's a figure.
A green hand tells us it's a weather beaten Skrull.

VERANKE
Then the scripture was right.

6) The warriors bow in humble respect to this mysterious cave creature. They are coming here a humbled people.

SKRULL CAPTAIN
Yes, your excellence.

7) The hooded figure steps forward, out of the cave, a surprised air of royal entitlement.

VERANKE
And now you've come back to me.

8) Same as 6.

SKRULL CAPTAIN
Yes, my queen.

9) The hooded figure is pulling off their hood. About to reveal their face. But not to us and not now.

VERANKE
Then here's what shall be done...

PAGE 4

1) Int. Stark laboratory– night
Tight on Iron Man looking at us, and slightly down. His masked face. Around him this cold, indistinguishable room.
It's a cold plain room. Where are we? What is he looking down at? Who else is in here?
Caption reads: Stark laboratory, location confidential.
Caption reads: Iron Man, director of S.H.I.E.L.D., Avenger
The credits start rolling on this scene.
Reads: MARVEL COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS

IRON MAN
I'm about to tell you a secret.
The biggest secret there is in the world.
I'm telling you because—because I just don't know what else to do.

2) same. But the armor helmet is sliding off. Revealing Tony's terrified face. Bloodshot eyes that haven't slept. A genius at his wit's end.
Reads: editor credits

IRON MAN
The Skrull empire.
Dozens of worlds ruled over by a species of shape–shifting life forms.
They're here now. Living among us. Undetectable.

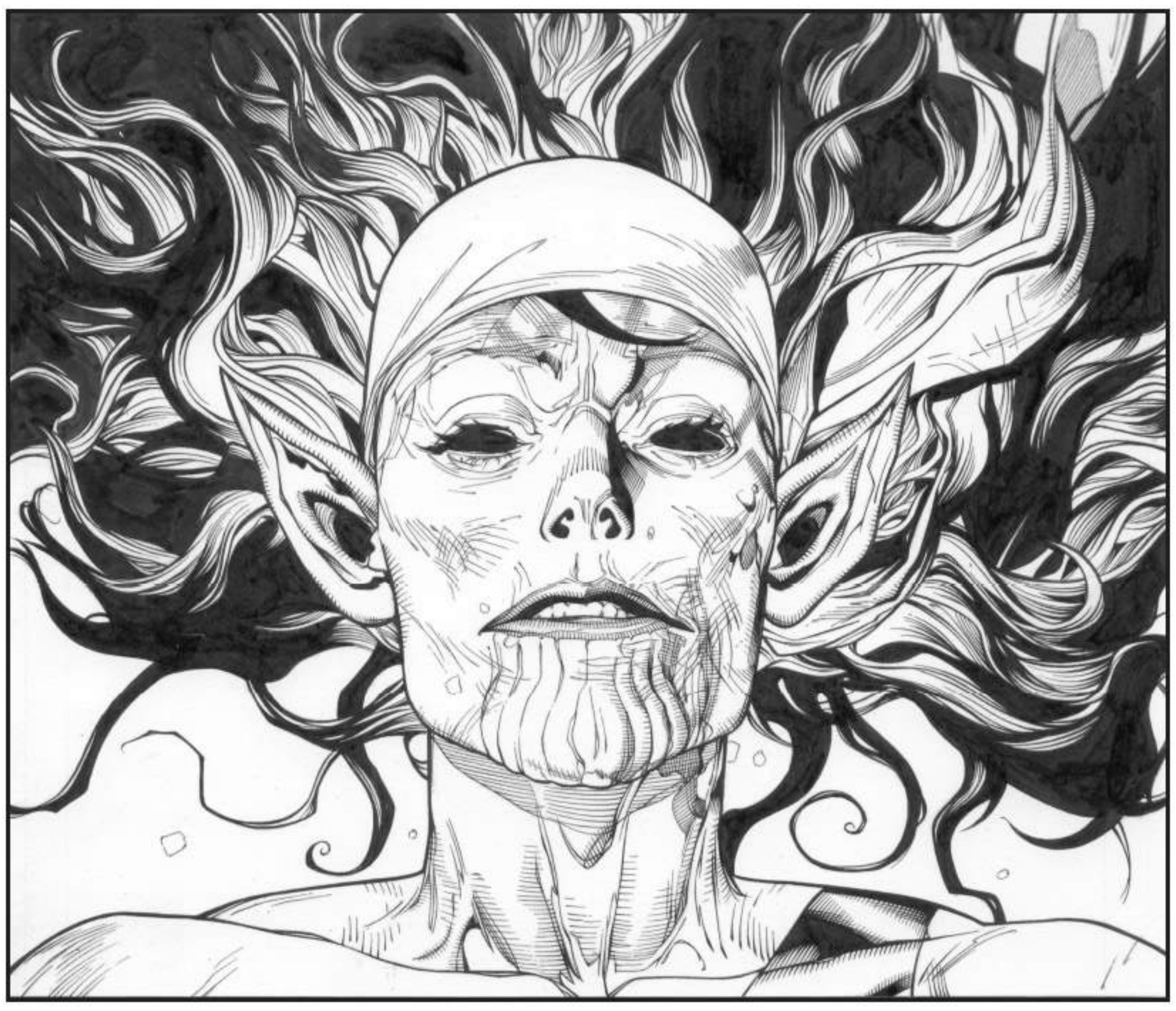
3) same, the helmet is revealing Tony Stark's face looking right at us. As serious as he has ever been.

IRON MAN
How do I know?
Because the Avengers went to Japan and this is what they found.

Reads: colorist and letterer credits

PAGE 5

1) Most of the page. High looking down.
The dead and dried blood-covered body of a Skrull wearing Elektra's costume.
You can't go dark and sinister enough. Especially on the Skrull. This is not a goofy alien. This is a serious alien threat. And that goes for all Skrull situations in this issue and beyond.
This is a life form that does not belong here. It feels and smells like something so alien. So not of our world.
Reads: THE SECRET INVASION
Reads: BY BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS AND LENIEL YU



2) From behind Iron Man's shoulder, Reed Richards, in a bomber jacket, and hank Pym, in a suit, are mouth open shocked. Staring down at the dead alien body.
Hank more shocked that Reed. Reed knew about this already. He's just trying to figure out the next move.

HANK PYM
Elektra?
Elektra the ninja assassin was a Skrull?

IRON MAN
Yes.

HANK PYM
For how long?

3) Tight on Iron Man. Tony. Darting eyes. Waiting for the other shoe to drop. Waiting to see if they made their move.

IRON MAN
And why couldn't anyone tell?
These are the questions.
And she's not the only one. There are others. I know this to be fact.
You two are the smartest people on the planet.
I'm looking right at you and I see—my armor sees—Doctor Reed Richards of the Fantastic Four and Doctor Hank Pym of the Avengers.
But I don't know if you are who you say you are.

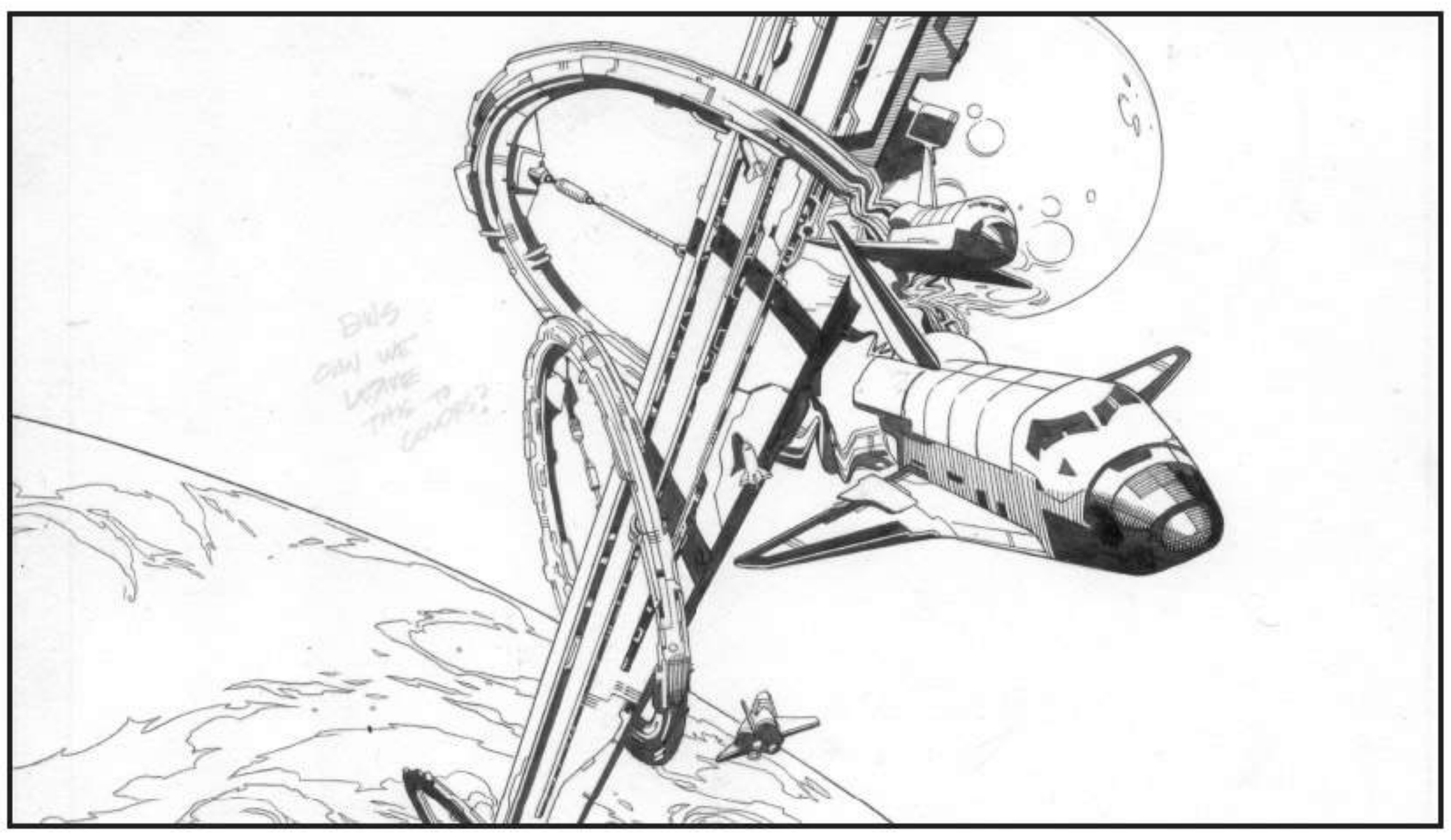
4) same as 3, but tighter on Tony's blood shot exhausted eyes. He can't take much more.

IRON MAN
See?
And we have to do something about this.
Now.
Because this is just the beginning.

PAGE 6

1) Ext. The S.W.O.R.D. Space station/orbit– night
Big panel. A gorgeous establishing shot of the S.W.O.R.D. Space station
Worm's eye view looking up at the gorgeous S.W.O.R.D. Space station that floats through the beauty of space.
Caption reads: The S.W.O.R.D. Space station
Sentient World Observation and Response Department
Orbiting earth.

SPECIAL AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND
Commander on deck!


BMB CAN WE LEAVE THIS TO COLOR?

2) Int. The S.W.O.R.D. Space station/communications/ war room– Same
The swirling activity on the boggling high tech world of S.W.O.R.D. Fifty agents hustle and bustle through the station's flight deck.
Special Agent Abigail Brand has a handful of agents with her to greet DUM DUM DUGAN who is here in his best dress and bowler hat. He is here for an inspection.
He has just stepped out of his Quinjet like vehicle.

SPECIAL AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND
Special agent Dugan, it is an honor to meet you, sir.

AGENT DUM DUM DUGAN
At ease, agent Brand.
All y'all...it's okay, at ease.
This is just a get–together between us world savin' agencies. Nothin' to get out the parade balloons for.

3) Int. The S.W.O.R.D. Space station/communications room– Same
The swirling activity on the boggling high tech world of S.W.O.R.D.
Agent brand leads Dum Dum Dugan into the world of S.W.O.R.D.
The high tech walls are covered with tons of live video screens monitoring just about everything on the planet.
The screens all dealing with any alien problem. Images of Skrull, Kree, Dire Wraith, Brood, Badoon, Shi'ar and Celestials. Marvel Boy, Captain Marvel... a locator map showing as many locations as they have.
The screens continue to show a bombardment of information about the Marvel Universe. It shows how wide in scope S.H.I.E.L.D. and S.W.O.R.D.'s p.o.v. is.
This is the 'big picture' flying by at a blinding speed.
A very sterile cold environment. The stations hustle and bustle is at full tilt.

SPECIAL AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND
You'll have to excuse them, agent. You are one of the all time great agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. Ever. They're excited to meet you.

AGENT DUM DUM DUGAN
Well, that's awful nice a' everybody.
This is some shindig you guys slapped together here.

SPECIAL AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND
As you know, you are standing in the hub of the Sentient World Observation and Response Department.
And as the planet's counterterrorism and intelligence agency which deals with extraterrestrial threats we have the—

ALARM
RED ALERT.
RED ALERT.
RED ALERT.

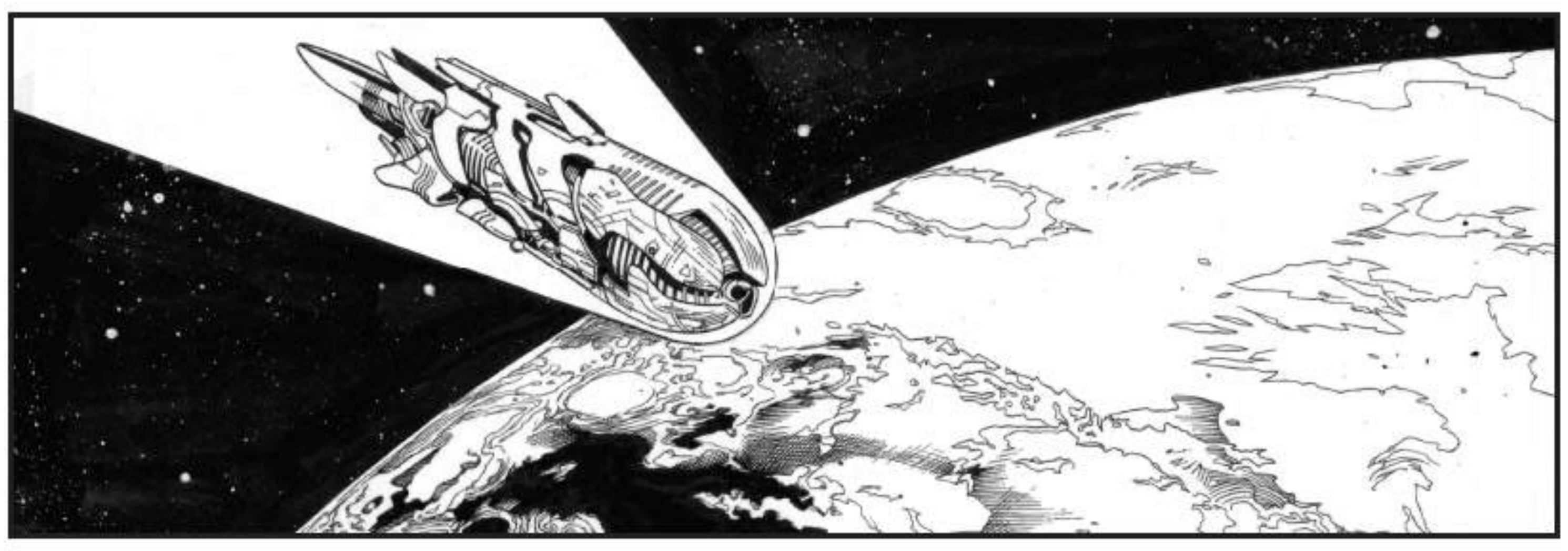
4) Low looking slightly up, almost profile, 3/4's view. Special Agent Abigail Brand leans in on the console next to a station agent and looks up to the screen above her. Dugan is right behind her.
A dozen agents running around doing their job or on high tech headset phones.

SPECIAL AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND
What do we got?

AGENT
We got a bogie.
And it's coming in fast!

PAGE 7

1) Ext. Space/orbit– Same
A phallic shaped, ornate Skrull transport ship is crashing through our atmosphere. Its tip is on fire from entry.
The ship has no Buck Roger's ship shape to it. It's just a circular or oval shaped transport container of a higher level technology than we could even imagine.
The copper like covering is ornate with design and logos. We will reveal a Skrull type logo imbedded into the side in a large circular area that will reveal itself as a door.



2) Int. The S.W.O.R.D. Space station/communications/war room– Same
From behind Agent Brand who, like Dugan and everyone else is watching a very undynamic satellite footage of the ship from many different angles on many different screens.
Two dozen S.W.O.R.D. Agents are running around on high alert. Everyone is taking battle stations.
The high tech walls are covered with tons of live video screens monitoring just about everything on the planet.
All the drama in the room has instantly shifted to aerial images of the Skrull ship. Everything is about that ship and Skrulls...

SPECIAL AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND
Give it to me!

AGENT
Unidentified alien craft hitting earth space at vector seven dash three dash nine.

SPECIAL AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND
That's a Skrull ship!

AGENT
It's a transport.

3) Low looking slightly up, almost profile, 3/4's view. Brand, Dugan and the others lean in on the console and look up to the screen above them.

SPECIAL AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND
A Skrull ship. One Skrull ship?

AGENT
It'll be in earth atmosphere in—now! It just hit earth's atmosphere.
And it's flying.

SPECIAL AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND
Where's it headed?

AGENT
Hold on!

4) From behind Brand, Dugan and the agents looking to the multitude of screens. Information is cascading all over the images at a startling rate. Red and white type displaying the analysis and identifying the information as it comes.

AGENT
Okay, okay. It's definitely Skrull and its going to

crash land on...hold on.
Coordinate estimation puts it right smack dab in...

5) Over Agent Brand's shoulder, the analysis agent half backlit to the screen...

AGENT
The Savage Land, ma'am.

6) Agent Brand leans in. Trained and ready for this exact moment. Dugan behind her watches the screens in amazement.

AGENT
Crash landing in 2.2 Minutes.

SPECIAL AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND
Get me Tony Stark.
Now!

PAGE 8–9

Double page spread
1) Int. Stark's secret warehouse– Same
Big panel. Half way down and across both pages.
A straight down bird's eye view of a dead, nude corpse of Elektra Skrull.
She is lying on an examiner's station. Because this is an all ages book :) let's have the ceiling lamp hanging down from off camera cover up her "hey nonny nonny"
Standing over the body is Tony Stark, Hank Pym and Reed Richards. All in lab coats but Tony is in the armor, no helmet.
The room is filled with high tech equipment and microscopes and other items so advanced not available to other people.
Reed Richards is reaching across her chest area for a device that is on the other side of the slab.

HANK PYM
Okay, Tony, So what are we looking for...?

IRON MAN
How this Skrull was able to shape–shift and stay completely undetectable—

REED RICHARDS
Completely undetectable?

IRON MAN
To mutant powers, magic–based power sets and technologies.

2) Low looking up, Tony Stark, Hank Pym and Reed Richards look down at the body. Considering. The light over their head backlighting and haloing them.
Tony is putting on his helmet.

REED RICHARDS
(Undetectable...)

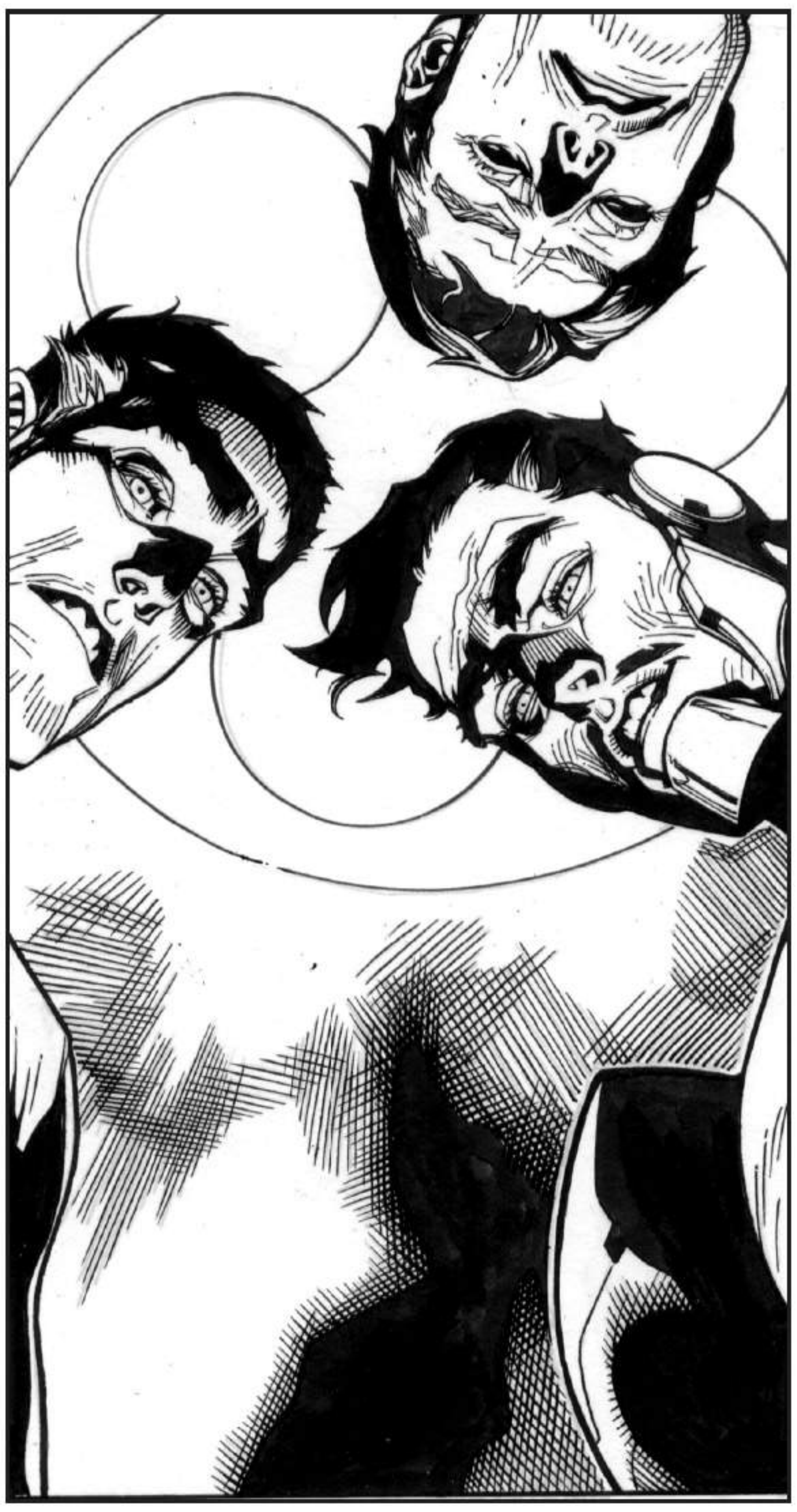
HANK PYM
This is new.

IRON MAN
This is new.

HANK PYM
Or it's just a trick.

IRON MAN
How is it a trick?

HANK PYM
Maybe Wolverine and Doctor Strange are Skrulls and they're messing with you.



3) Mid wide of the room. Tony is projecting screens from his armor for the others to view and analyze as he puts on his helmet. Hank is putting on rubber gloves. They are preparing to operate.

IRON MAN
Either way, my armor, our tech, nothing detected it.

This body is the key.

HANK PYM
(Undetectable...)

4) Int. Iron Man's armor–day
we are INSIDE Tony Stark's armor.
But, as we showed in other issues, at first glance it should look like he is standing in a dark communications room–either at home or at work.
In front of his face are a dozen tiny computer screen all laying on top of each other. Each screen either receiving and broadcasting video or text information–or giving Tony up to date information on anything and everything.
Red type on black with full color graphics. White type on red screens.
The screen at the top left is the view of the room. Hank and Reed looking at him. Their identities and info scanning across the screens.
The second most important screen is Maria hill talking to him from the Helicarrier 1 as the little type on screen indicates.

REED RICHARDS
I need to access my Baxter Building files. I have extensive Skrull research that I've compiled—

HANK PYM
Good, good.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
Director Stark this is Maria Hill. Word from S.W.O.R.D. We got a bogie. It's Skrull.

5) Tony is looking up at his screens. Lights dance on his eyes.

IRON MAN
Crash-landed? Any survivors.

SPECIAL AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND
We can't tell. We have to send a team in. I can go myself.

6) Int. Stark's secret warehouse–Same
Iron Man is walking away from Hank and Reed and towards us with purpose, to their surprise.

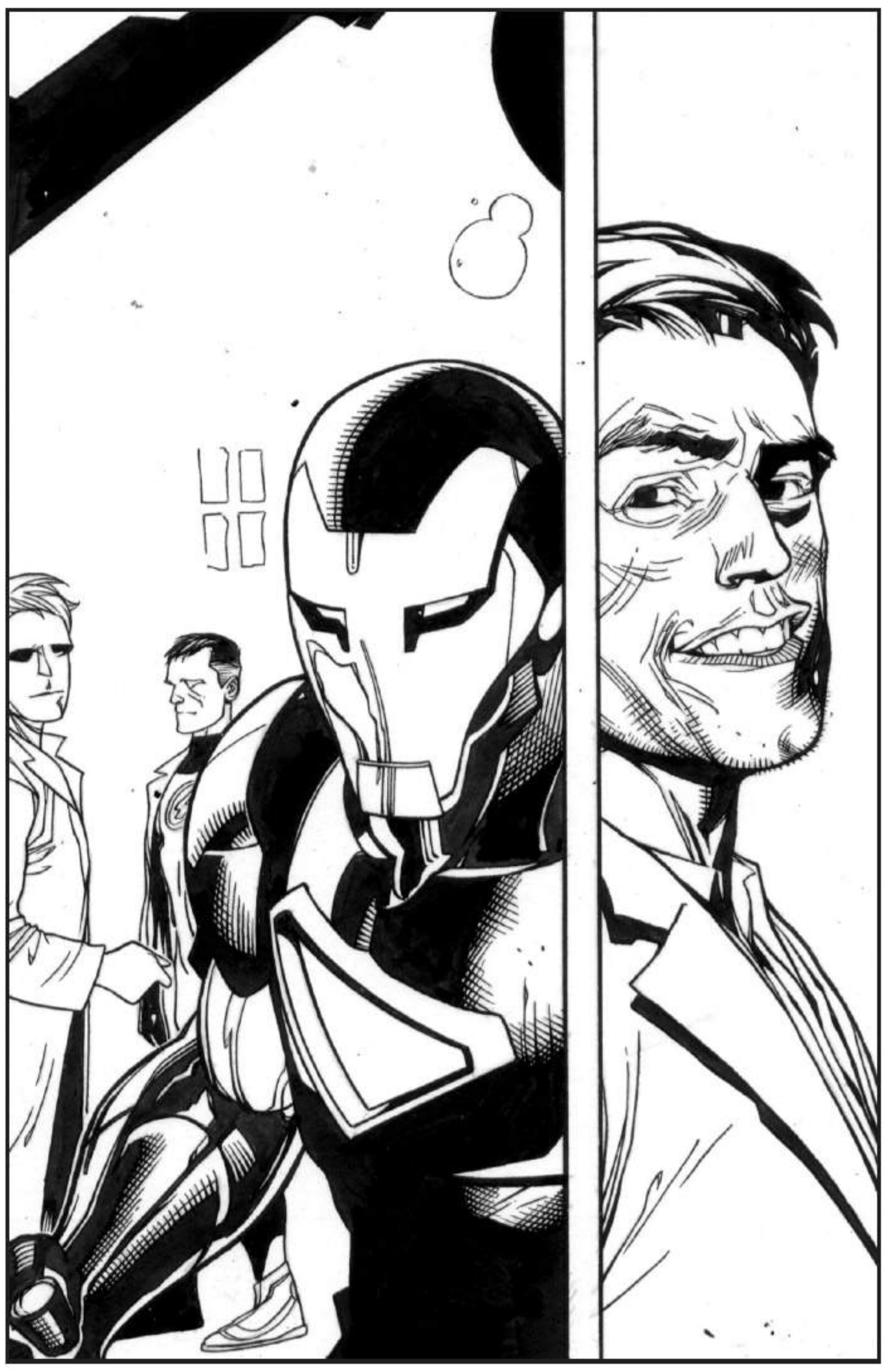
REED RICHARDS
What is it?

IRON MAN
I have to go.

REED RICHARDS
Oh! Okay. We can do this.
IRON MAN
I'll call in for reports.

HANK PYM
What happened?

IRON MAN
I'll call in.



7) Over Reed's shoulder, Hank shrugs off the diss of Tony bailing with boyish charm.

HANK PYM
He'll call in.

PAGE 10

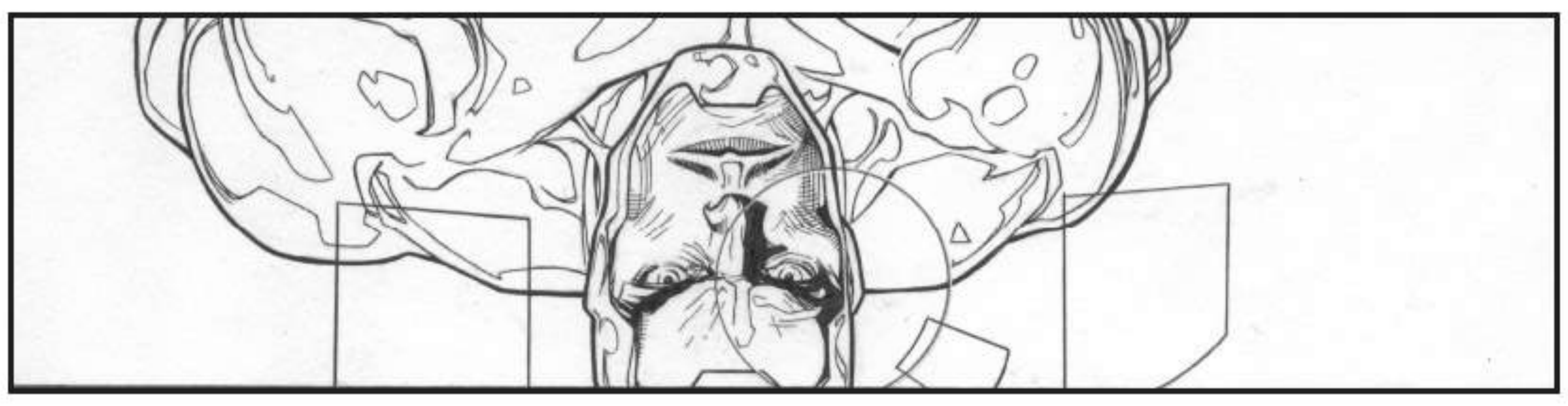
1) Ext. Washington DC industrial complex– Same
High looking down. Iron Man flies right for us and upside down. Crackling with energy. Spiraling through the caverns of Manhattan.
In the foreground, wide of the empty and abandoned parking lot for a company that used to be.
In the distance, wide shot of the facility which we see looks like a plain as day industrial complex.
Iron Man is flying over this bland as hell, inconspicuous, industrial complex that is only one or two stories high.
Washington DC skyline in the far background.

IRON MAN
Avengers assemble.

2) Int. Iron Man's armor– same
We are back inside Tony Stark's armor as he is in flight.
In front of his face are a dozen tiny computer screens all laying on top of each other. Each screen either receiving and broadcasting video or text information– or giving Tony up to date information on anything and everything. Including the armor flight trajectory.
Red type on black with full color graphics. White type on red screens.
Basically the armor is flying itself as Tony deals with his life.
The screen at the top left is actually the view of his flight through Washington DC but we are not focused on that one.
The second most important screen is Jessica Drew in costume talking to him from somewhere in Avengers Tower as the little type on screen indicates.
Caption reads: Spider-Woman, Avenger, agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.

JESSICA DREW
I'm the only one here, Tony. What's going on?

IRON MAN
Gather the troops and fire up the Quinjet, Spider-Woman.
A Skrull ship crashed in the Savage Land.



3) Int. Armor– Same
Tony's p.o.v. Jessica Drew on screen is alarmed. Her info is on screen as well.

JESSICA DREW
Is this it?

IRON MAN
We'll know soon.

4) Int. Avenger's Tower/ kitchen– Same
Jessica folds her arms and stares at the now blank screen floating over the kitchen counter. A fresh faced Jarvis is entering.
Caption reads: Edwin Jarvis, butler, Avenger's tower
5) Jessica looks at Jarvis who is looking back at her as he is starting to prepare his kitchen. Is he giving a meaningful look or are they just looking at each other?
6) Spider-Woman walks away from Jarvis and picks up a cell phone and dials the phone and talks.

VOICE
Yeah?

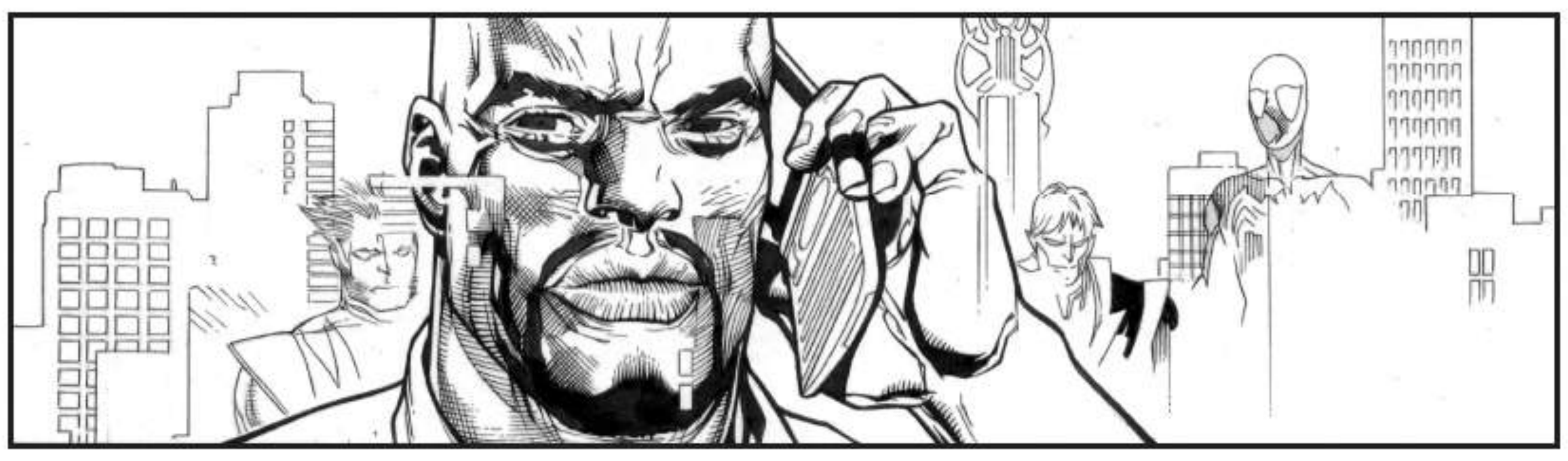
JESSICA DREW
Well, it's happening.

PAGE 11

1) Int. Penthouse apartment– day
The New Avengers new digs. From issue 38 of New Avengers. Well, what's left of the New Avengers...
LUKE CAGE, SPIDER-MAN, WOLVERINE, IRON FIST, ECHO, and RONIN.
Luke Cage is in the foreground left turns away from the others and towards us to answer this surprising phone call.
Spider-Man in costume, on the ceiling, Echo, Ronin, Wolverine are all sitting around in the rather empty, but lovely apartment suite. They are eating Chinese takeout. Out of the cartons. Food and bottled water and beer everywhere.
A sunken living room with one big chair giving way to a nice view of the city. Both the Fantastic Four Baxter Building and the Mighty Avengers Tower visible in the skyline.
There are just a few pieces of furniture. Freshly painted but that's about it.
Caption reads: Luke Cage
Caption reads: fugitive Avenger

LUKE CAGE
What is?

JESSICA DREW
Skrull ship crashed in the Savage Land. Tony's gathering the troops.
But it's going to take a bit. Everyone's scattered.



2) Ext. Apartment– Same
Luke is staring out the window at Avenger's Tower which is reflected on the glass in front of him.
Behind him the Avengers are aware that Luke is

having an important conversation while they eat.

LUKE CAGE
And you want a bunch of renegade heroes running from the law to do what about it?

JESSICA DREW
At this point I trust you more than Stark. You might get a head start.
Wouldn't you like a head start?

3) Int. Avenger's Tower/ kitchen– Same
Jessica hangs up the phone with purpose. Looking at it.
4) Over Jarvis' silhouette shoulder, Jessica Looks up at Jarvis. In the half light.
5) Int. Apartment– Same
Luke is in the foreground, profile, thinking it over.
The other Avengers... Spider-Man, Wolverine, Iron Fist, Echo, and Ronin all know something is up.
Caption reads: Wolverine
Caption reads: Echo
Caption reads: Ronin
Caption reads: Spider-Man
Caption reads: Iron Fist

DANNY RAND
What was that?

6) Small panel. Tight on Luke as he considers all the angles.
7) Same.
8) Over Echo's shoulder, Luke, backlit to the hazy sun out the window behind him, is back on the phone with a finger up for everyone to hold on.
Behind him a clear view of New York City. The Baxter Building and beyond that the mighty Avengers Tower.

LUKE CAGE
Hold on.
Hey, man, I need a solid. Asap.
A quick drop. Yeah? You da man.

9) Luke flips the phone closed and turns to the group. a sigh of excitement. Stuff's about to go down one way or another.

LUKE CAGE
You guys ready to piss off everyone?

SPIDER-MAN
Boy, am I!

PAGE 12

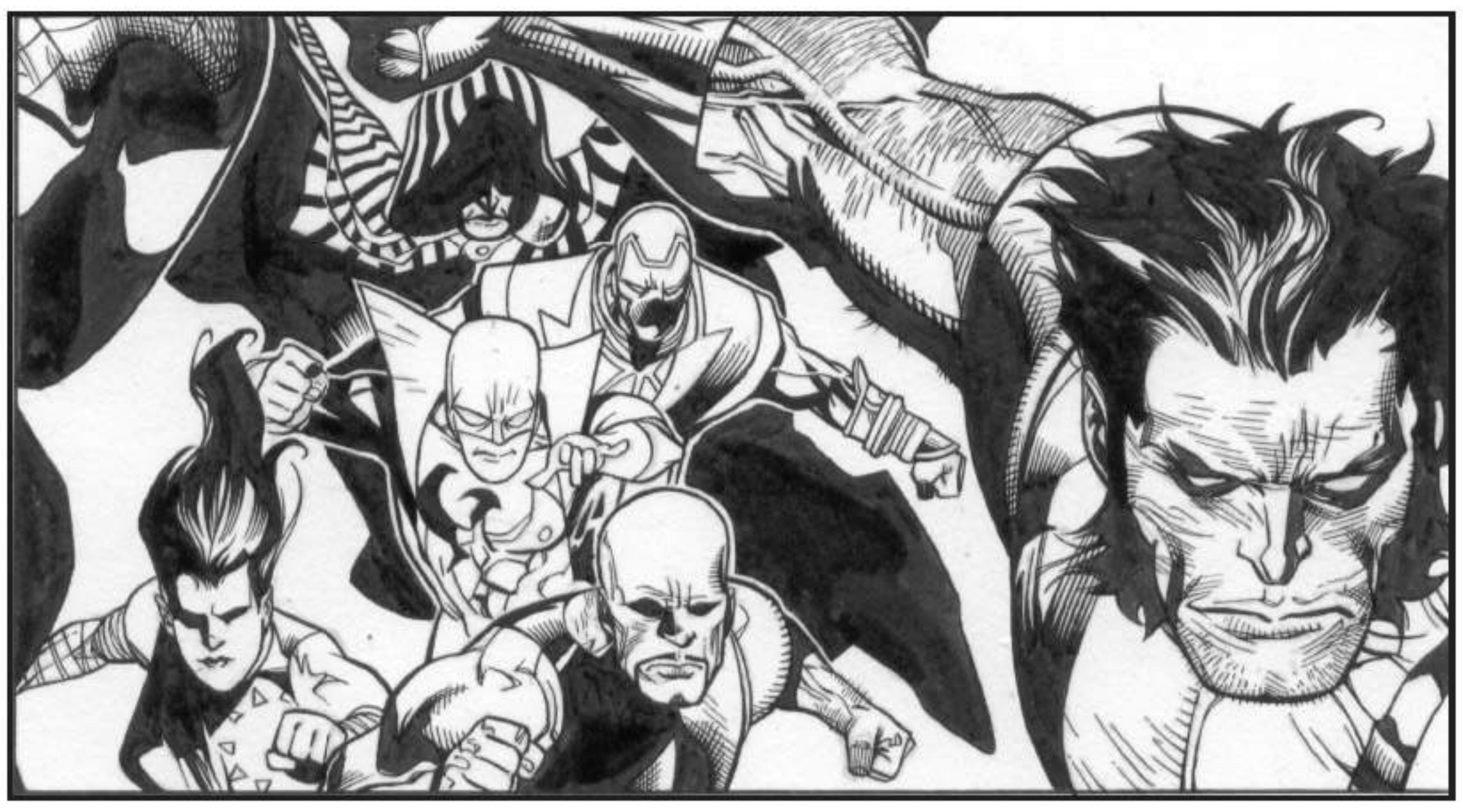
1) Ext. Avenger's Tower/ rooftop– Day
It's gorgeous. White. New. Light gleams off the side.
The stunning sight of the all New Avengers QUINJET. Sleek. Modern. New design. Awesome.
The gorgeous A on the wing giving it that majestic Avengers feel.
A couple of small copters parked right next to the Quinjet. This is Tony's aero–pad.
Black Widow, in the foreground, is on comm. Her hair whipping in the high wind.
Caption reads: Avengers Tower, rooftop launching pad

BLACK WIDOW
Helicarrier—

Caption reads: Black Widow, S.H.I.E.L.D Agent, Avenger

BLACK WIDOW
Tell Tony the Quinjet's gassed and ready. Just waiting for Simon, Carol and Bob.

2) Cloak appears on the roof of the Quinjet and The New Avengers pour out.
The New Avengers. Boom! Right there! Ready for action. The Avengers literally bursting out of Cloak's cloak.
Luke Cage leads Spider-Man, Wolverine, Iron Fist, Echo, and Ronin.



3) Black Widow is mouth open shocked to see them here like this. Getting ready to react.
BLACK WIDOW
You people are out of your @#$%...
4) Same. Webbing hits her face. But she holds up her hand to block it. It still gets all over her.
Spx: thwap
5) Same. A nunchaku hits Black Widow in the head.
Spx: bonk
6) In the foreground, She's out. On the ground,

on her stomach.
In the background, Cloak is folding in on himself. About to leave. Ronin is catching his bouncing nunchaku and wincing. He has a good history with Widow. Wolverine is getting in the Quinjet with Echo as Luke gestures kindly to cloak.

CLOAK
Far as I go, guys.

IRON FIST
You sure, Cloak? We could use the—

CLOAK
You need some of my teleporting cloak? No problem.
Stealing Tony Stark's car? You guys have fun.

LUKE CAGE
A'ight, but we owe ya.

CLOAK
Y'think?

RONIN
Man, Natasha's going to kill me when she wakes. We used to go out.

SPIDER-MAN
Who haven't you gone out with?

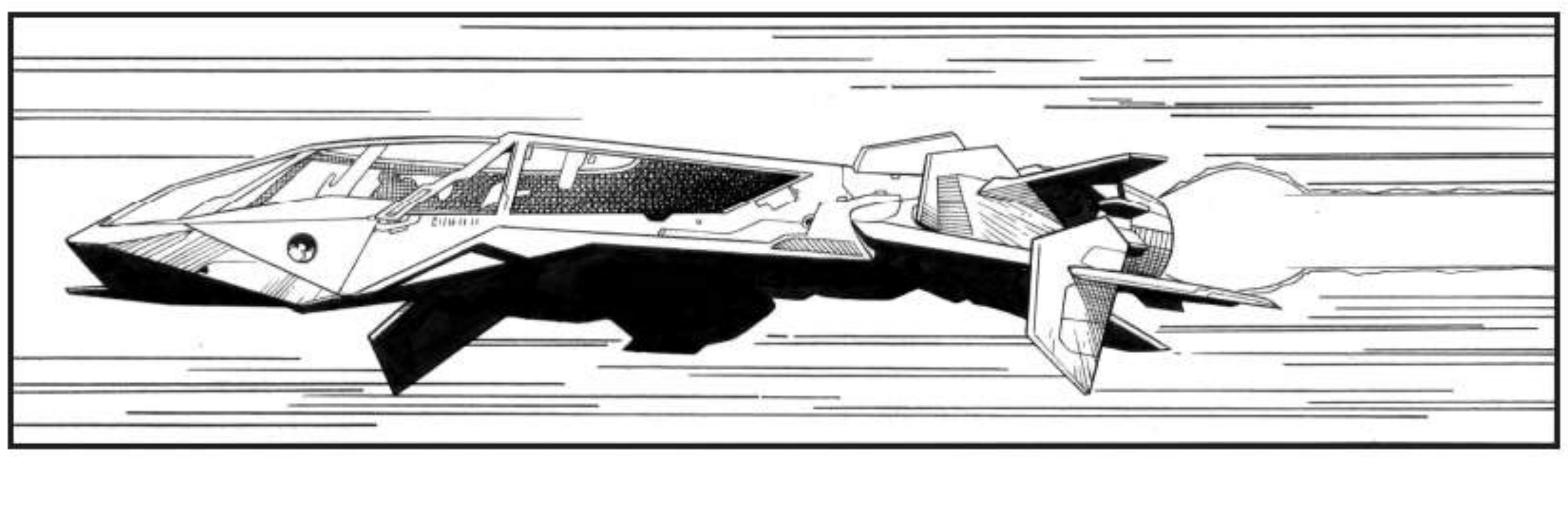
7) Ext. New York– Same
The Quinjet takes off like a bullet. Streaking across the New York skyline. Devil in the details.

PAGE 13

1) Ext. Avenger's Tower/ rooftop– Day
Iron Man and Ms. Marvel show up in midair, both stunned to see the empty helipad. Ares and Spider-Woman are just coming out the rooftop entrance to see the Black Widow getting up and pulling off the webbing with anger.

IRON MAN
Where the #$%^ is my Quinjet?!

2) Ext. New York– Same
The New Avengers Quinjet is flying away from us and to the glowing orange sky.



SPIDER-MAN
Uh, just FYI...
Tony Stark can control this from his armor.

3) Int. Quinjet– Same
The Avengers all have taken seats in this gleaming high tech plane of the future.
Even though it was metal outside, it is see through in most parts on the inside. Just a strip down the middle and sides giving the structure depth and perspective.
Computer and monitors everywhere. A computer station on the right by Ronin.
Wolverine is in the pilot's seat, flying, plugged in. Luke Cage is co–pilot. Everyone else buckling in and looking around at the high tech cool.
Ronin pulls out a mother board out from underneath the communications computer on the side.

RONIN
Not anymore.

WOLVERINE
Nice.

IRON FIST
He can still follow us.

ECHO
He can?

IRON FIST
He controls the world's satellites.

4) Luke looks right at us with quiet purpose. This is the endgame and he's happy to meet him there.

LUKE CAGE
Fine by me.

PAGE 14

1) Ext. Sky– day
Half a page. The Mighty Avengers are coming right at us. Iron Man in the lead, flying hard. With purpose.
Everyone in costume. Everyone is ready. Ms. Marvel is a little confused. Maybe worried.
Ms. Marvel, the Sentry, and Wonder Man flanking Iron Man's sides.
An older, classic designed Quinjet right behind them. The Wasp is flying it. Spider-Woman, Ares and Black Widow clearly visible in the windshield.
Caption reads: Ms. Marvel

Caption reads: The Sentry
Caption reads: Ares
Caption reads: Wonder–Man
Caption reads: The sanctioned Avengers
2) Ext. Savage Land– morning
The Quinjet flies right for us. Morning. Foggy. Primordial steam. Hints of the other worldly nature of the Savage Land.

SPIDER-MAN
Savage Land.
This'll be fun, He says sarcastically.

3) Int. Quinjet– Same
The Avengers all look out the window. Amazed by the Jurassic Park world they are entering into. These are the 'street level' Avengers. This is an amazing sight.

ECHO
I thought it was a made–up place.

SPIDER-MAN
Oh, it's real...

WOLVERINE
A hidden land that time forgot snuggled away in the deep depths of the arctic.

ECHO
You've all been there?

SPIDER-MAN
Hey, So we know this isn't a Tony Stark trap how exactly?

WOLVERINE
They had plenty of opportunities to bust us without all this.

LUKE CAGE
Exactly.

4) Tight on Luke, determined and focused. Behind him Everyone alert and watching the view all around them.

SPIDER-MAN
And how do we know it isn't a Skrull trap?

LUKE CAGE
I hope it's a Skrull trap.
I'm so sick of hiding. I'm sick of not trusting each other.
I miss my wife and kid. I want to put this right. I want things to go back to normal.

5) Luke smirks. Granted. Ronin in the background at his communication's station.

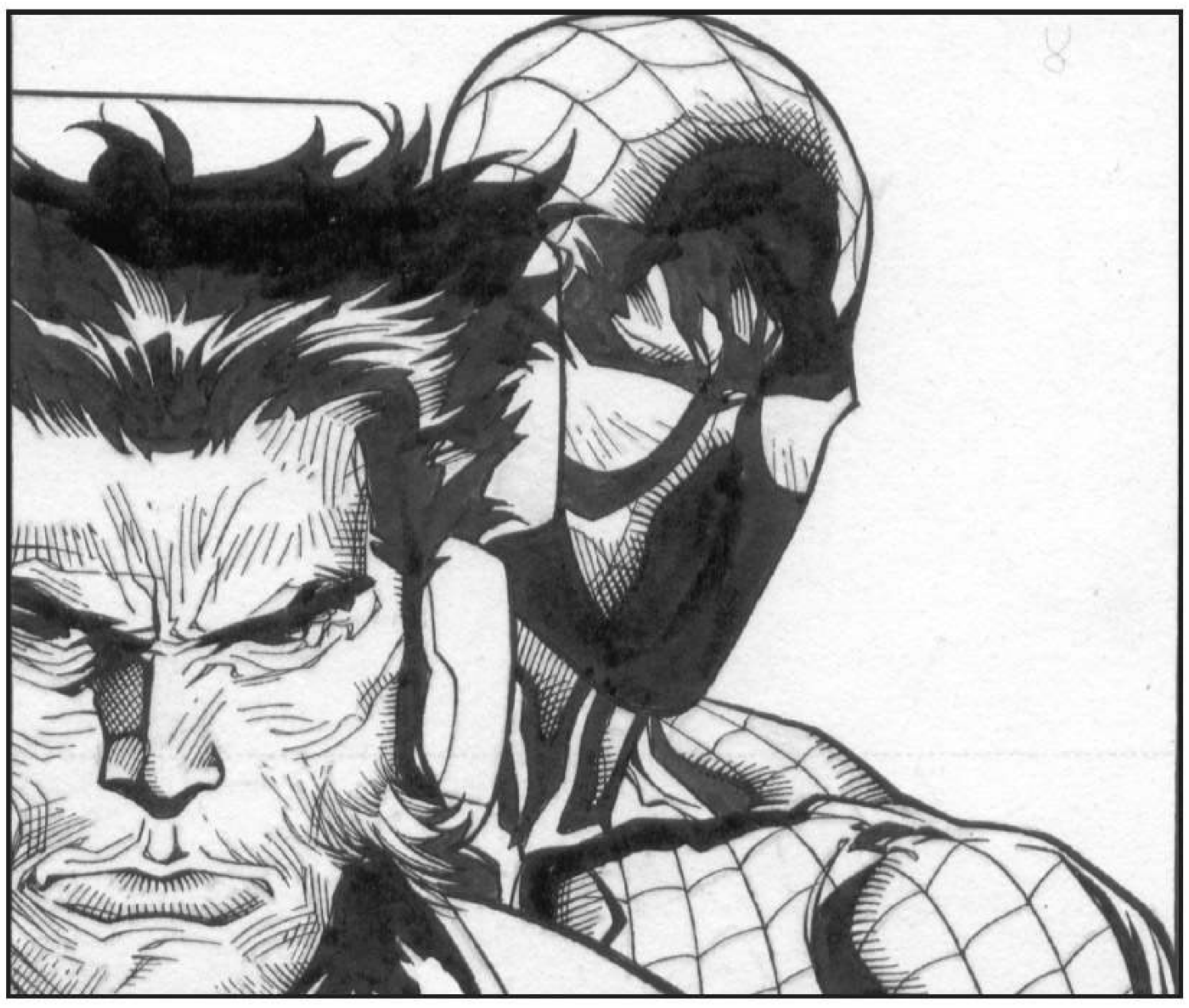
RONIN
When were things normal?

LUKE CAGE
Relatively.

6) Spidey is looking over Logan's shoulder. Watching the world coming up to them.

SPIDER-MAN
Do we know what we're looking for when we get there?

WOLVERINE
Don't you worry.
I can track anything anywhere anytime.



PAGE 15

1) Ext. Savage Land– Same
Huge panel. The Quinjet flies towards us as a giant, long necked dinosaur lunges out of the foliage and grabs the Quinjet mid flight.
Grabs it right in its monstrous mouth.
Spx: caarruunnch!!
2) Int. Quinjet– Same
Tilted upside–down panel. The Avengers are shocked to find themselves tossing and barely staying in their seat belted seats. Wolverine grabs the controls and tries to do what he can but there's nothing he can do. Behind then, in the big windows we can see a bit of the monsters mouth on either side.

WOLVERINE
Hold—

3) Ext. Savage Land– morning
The dinosaur throws the Quinjet out of his mouth of the tall necked prehistoric monster as another tall necked prehistoric monster bites the first one in the neck in an attempt to get his prey.
In the distance a the floral spectacle that is the massive Savage Land.
4) Int. Quinjet– Same
Inside, upside down. Everyone is falling over themselves not to fall all over themselves. Spidey's spider–sense is blaring. For all the good it's doing.

SPIDER-MAN
This—

PAGE 16

1) Ext. Savage Land– morning
The Quinjet crashes hard and upside down into a dozen Savage Land tall trees. It breaks as many trees as it takes trees to stop its movement.
In the distance, the two monsters start nipping at each other. Already having lost interest in their prey.
Spx: froomm
Sox: cruunncchh
2) Same. The Quinjet sits there. Hanging in the trees. The damaged leaves falling.

SPIDER-MAN
You couldn't track that?

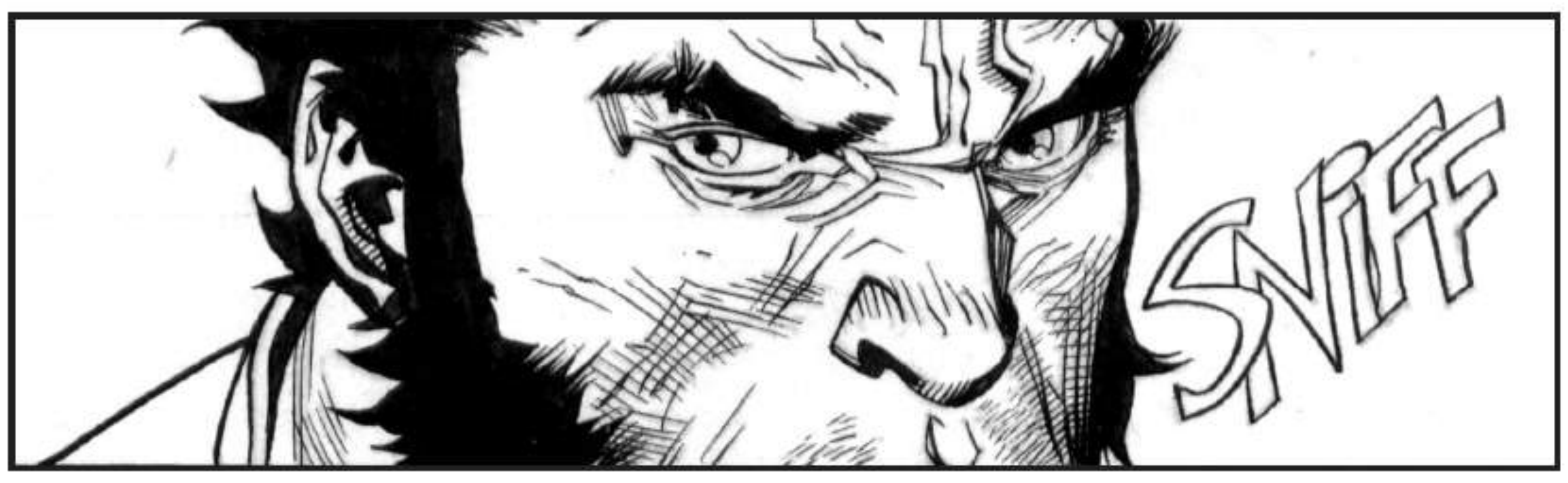
3) Same. Luke busts out the door with one good punch.
Spx: boom
4) Ext. Savage Land/ ground– Same
The Avengers are out of the Quinjet, out of the tree and on the ground. Echo is genuinely shocked and out of breath. That's never happened to her before.
Wolverine smelling the air. The floral spectacle that is the massive Savage Land.
Even though it's sunlight outside, it's so dense in the foliage that only a couple of streams of dense light from above hint at it. The shadows and greenery thick.

ECHO
Wow.

SPIDER-MAN
I was thinking more like...ow!

5) Tight on Wolverine's flaring nose. Smelling the air.

WOLVERINE
Quiet.
This way.



PAGE 17

1) The New Avengers search the ruins of what was the Savage Land. No Ka–Zar. No Zabu. Luke points to something off panel.

SPIDER-MAN
Ka–Zar lives around here. We should find him.

LUKE CAGE
Look...

2) Ext. Citadel entrance– Same
Behind the New Avengers, who carefully approach the mutate citadel. It's smoldering still. Something bad has happened here. The stench of death is in the air.
Though nothing is being directly referenced. Those that know what it is will know what it is, those who don't will just feel that something bad has happened.

3) Int. Citadel– Same
Wide of the citadel main hall which was transformed into a high tech scientific laboratory.
The Avengers are looking in on this giant operating theatre and what was Brainchild's work station and headquarters.
All of his tech was slapped together/pieced together. Piecemeal from things he either invented or scavenged.
The room itself is huge, but a giant mess. This dome was blown out years ago and never fixed. Vegetation overgrows through every crack in the structure. Windows blown out long ago leave just concrete frames with foliage growing in and out.
A handful of barbarian guards are all dead. Slaughtered. Destroyed. Small creatures and large bugs preying on their corpses.
4) Tight on the stunned Avengers. Looking down in horror.

RONIN
What's happened here?

WOLVERINE
What's it look like?
Let's go. This ain't what we're here for...

5) Ext. Savage Land

The Avengers walk away from the citadel slaughter and are heading back into the unknown of the jungle. A pterodactyl flies in the distance.
6) The Avengers are walking up to a clearing just off panel. Logan pushing a shrub away to give everyone a view of the amazing sight off panel.
WOLVERINE
That's what we're here for.

PAGE 18– 19

Double page spread
1) Huge panel across both pages.
From behind the Avengers on the right, looking wide to an unnatural clearing. A crash site.
A ship. A crashed Skrull ship, half buried in the mud has torn up hundreds of feet of foliage and dirt to make its horrible landing. Making its own runway of disaster as it crashed.
2) The Avengers approach. Wolverine has his claws out. Everyone on alert. Steam coming off the crashed ship.

LUKE CAGE
You gettin' anything, Logan?

WOLVERINE
Nah, it's sealed shut.

IRON FIST
So we open it.

SPIDER-MAN
Well, that depends.

IRON FIST
On...?

SPIDER-MAN
What do we think we're going to see when we open it?

3) Profile. The Avengers look at the crashed ship off panel. Everyone thinking out loud. Everyone a little on edge.

SPIDER-MAN
Maybe the entire Skrull army's going to pour out.

RONIN
Or escaped hostages.

IRON FIST
Or a couple of now prisoners of war. With answers.

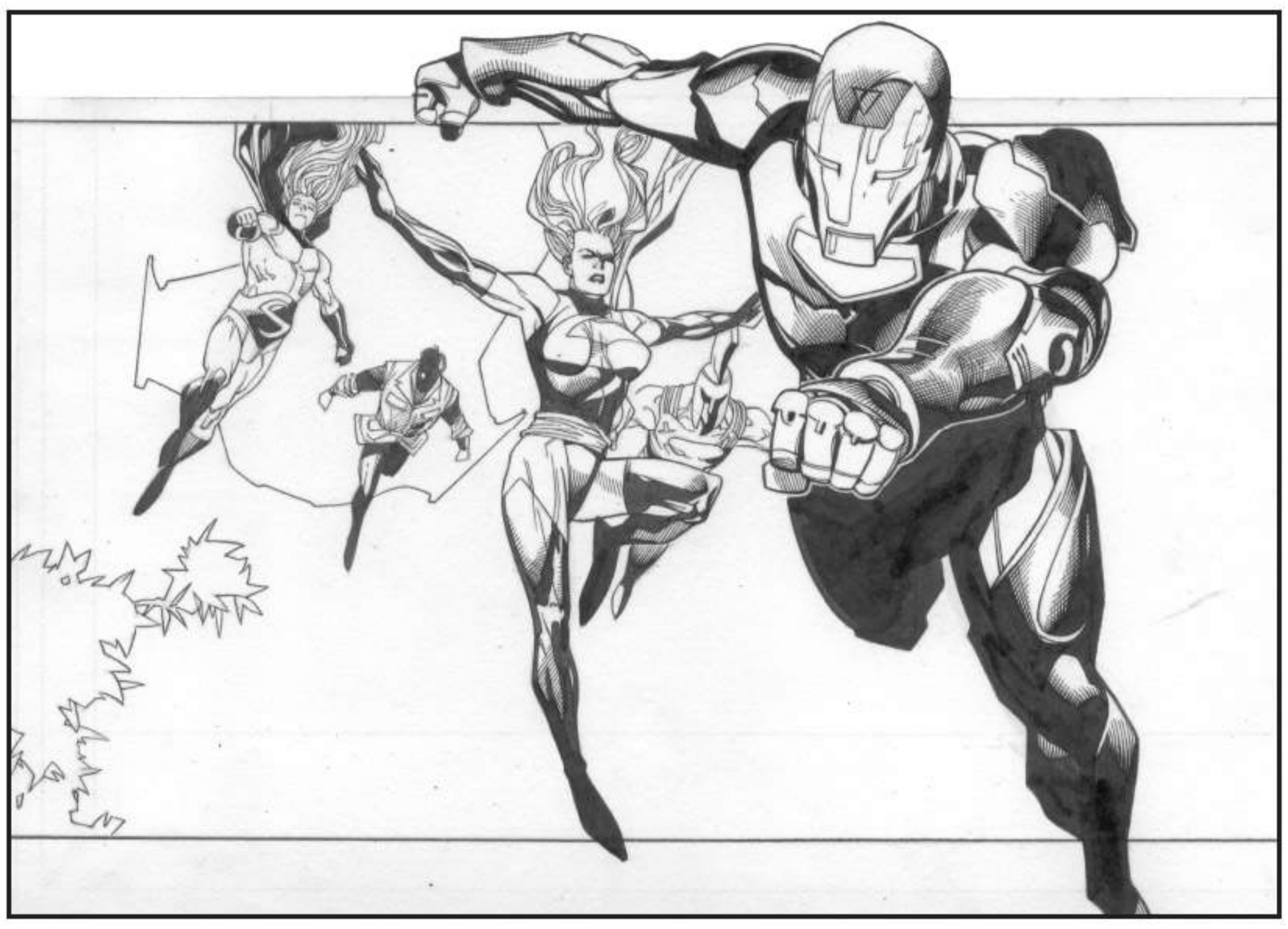
ECHO
Open it.

4) High looking down, Logan looks up to the sky, his hair blowing. Is it a chopper?
WOLVERINE
Whatever we do, do it now...

5) Over Logan and Spidey's shoulder, looking up to the hazy sky. The Mighty Avengers are coming in for a landing.

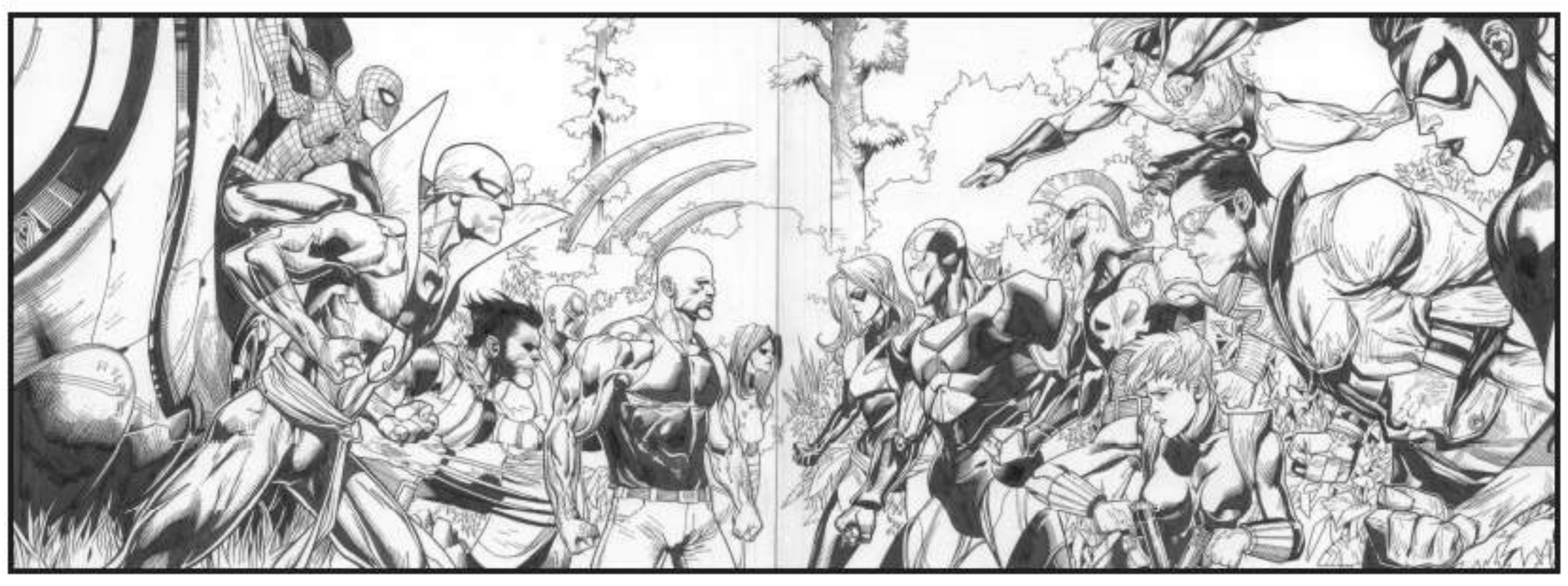
WOLVERINE
'Cuz we ain't alone anymore...

Iron Man
Step away from the ship.
You're under arrest.



PAGE 20– 21

Double page spread
1) Profile. Wide across the clearing. The New Avengers ready to fight on the left, the Mighty Avengers landing and ready to fight on the right. The New Avengers blocking the Skrull ship from Tony and his team.



RONIN
What?
Now you're the king of the Savage Land too?

MS. MARVEL
Come on, guys! You're smart enough to know when to stand down.
Luke, seriously, stand down.

2) Luke thinks about it with a snarl. Defiant to the end.

LUKE CAGE
Nah, I'm openin' it.

3) Iron Man holds up his hand. His repulsor rays hum in full power. On either side Ares and the Sentry are ready to go.

IRON MAN
Luke...

4) Spidey watches as Luke grabs the handle on the huge platform doors on the side of the ship. Luke isn't even watching Tony and the Avengers.

LUKE CAGE
That suit of yours ain't gonna hurt me. You know that.
Actually, what I mean to say, Tony Stark would know that. I ain't entirely sure who you are.
But I know if you don't want me to open this, then I'm doin' it.

5) Int. The S.W.O.R.D. Space station/communications room– Same
The S.W.O.R.D. Agents and Brand and Dugan are all watching this from satellite live footage. Brand is confused and asks out loud...

SPECIAL AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND
What the hell does that mean?

S.W.O.R.D. AGENT
I think it means he thinks Stark's a Skrull.

6) Ext. Savage Land/ crash site– same
Carol steps forward. Trying to plead with her friend Luke one last time. Old friends lost to this nonsense.

MS. MARVEL
Luke, come on...let us handle this.

A row of small equal sized panels.

7) Luke hand has grabbed the transport doors handle. Ready to pull it open.
8) Int. The S.W.O.R.D. Space station/communications room– Same
Tight on DUM DUM who is taking off his hat.
9) Int. Avengers Tower/ kitchen– Same
Jarvis is watching a satellite shot of this standoff from a monitor on the wall right outside his kitchen. Very cold. Very emotionless. In the half light.
10) Ext. Savage Land/crash site–Same
Profile. Luke, with the other Avengers, blocking him from attack, turns the lever with all his considerable might. Flexing. The huge doors do not budge.
There's an odd shaped orange light over the door. It's a tiny one in the ornate design.
11) Tight on the orange light...
12) Same. The light turns to green. Indicating the airlock is open.
13) Int. The S.W.O.R.D. space station/communications room– Same
Dum Dum Dugan, hat off, closes his sparking eyes. Peaceful, ready. In direct contrast to the alien power right behind his eyelids.

DUN DUM DUGAN
(whisper)
He loves you...

14) Ext. Savage Land/ crash site– Same
Tight on the indicator light.

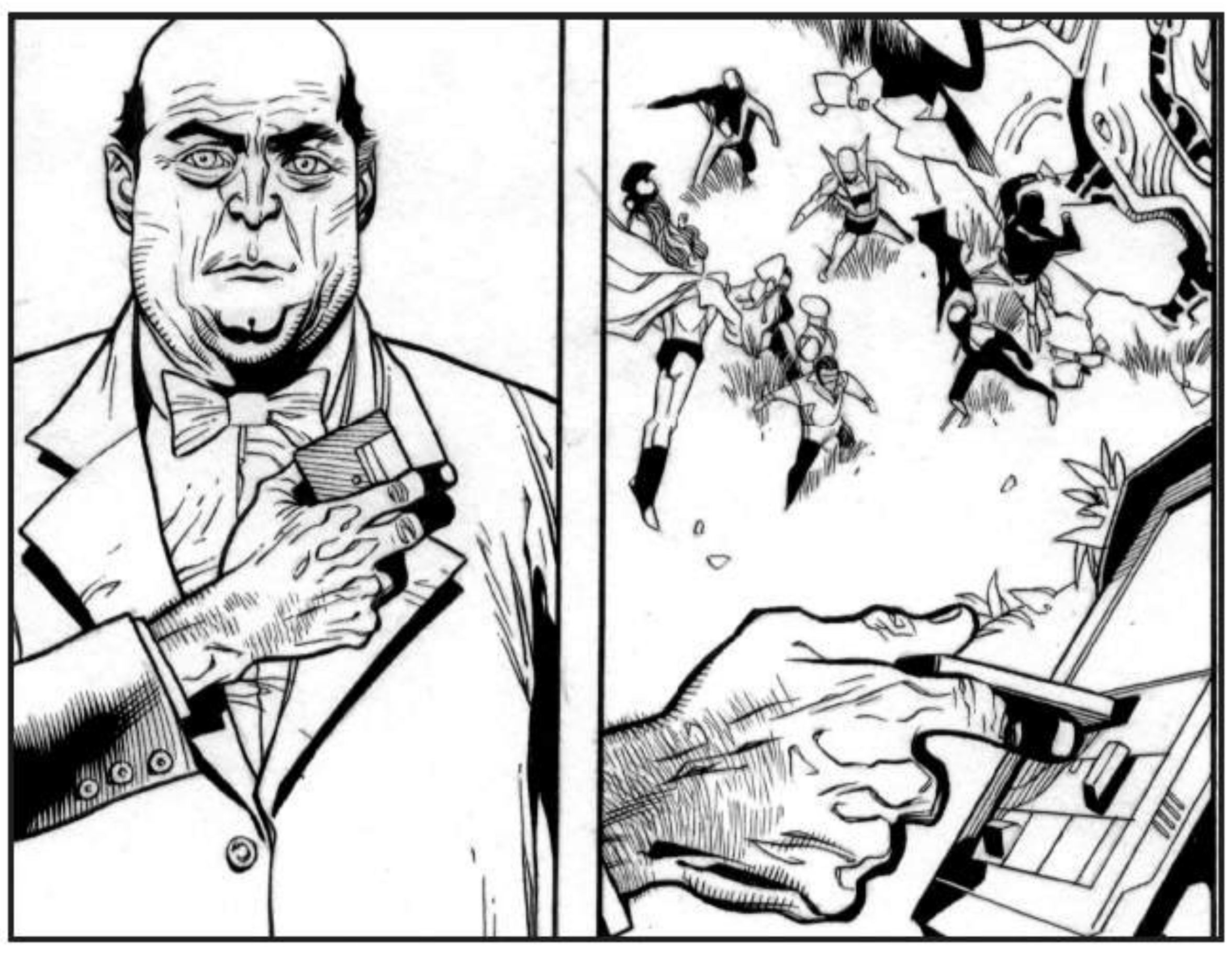
PAGE 22

1) Ext. The S.W.O.R.D. Space station/orbit– night
Big panel. Most of the page. The S.W.O.R.D. Space station erupts in a fireball. It explodes from within.
A massive, horrifying act of alien terrorism and sabotage. Millions of pieces and little figures of crew members go flying into the cold reaches of space.
Make sure its clear we're in space and not in the Savage Land.
2) Widescreen panel across the bottom.
Agent Brand is floating upside down in space. Her body covered in a liquidy shell. Covering her completely. Keeping her alive. Saving her from death.
Other crew members around her float through the wreckage in similar straits. They are living in this horror or died from the impact. Their defense system failed them.

PAGE 23

1) Int. Avenger's Tower/ kitchen– Same Jarvis has a mini disc in his hand...

2) Jarvis inserts it into the wall control panel in the kitchen under the wall of security Monitors. On one the monitor we are high looking down on the Savage Land situation.



MS. MARVEL
Luke, come on...let us handle this.

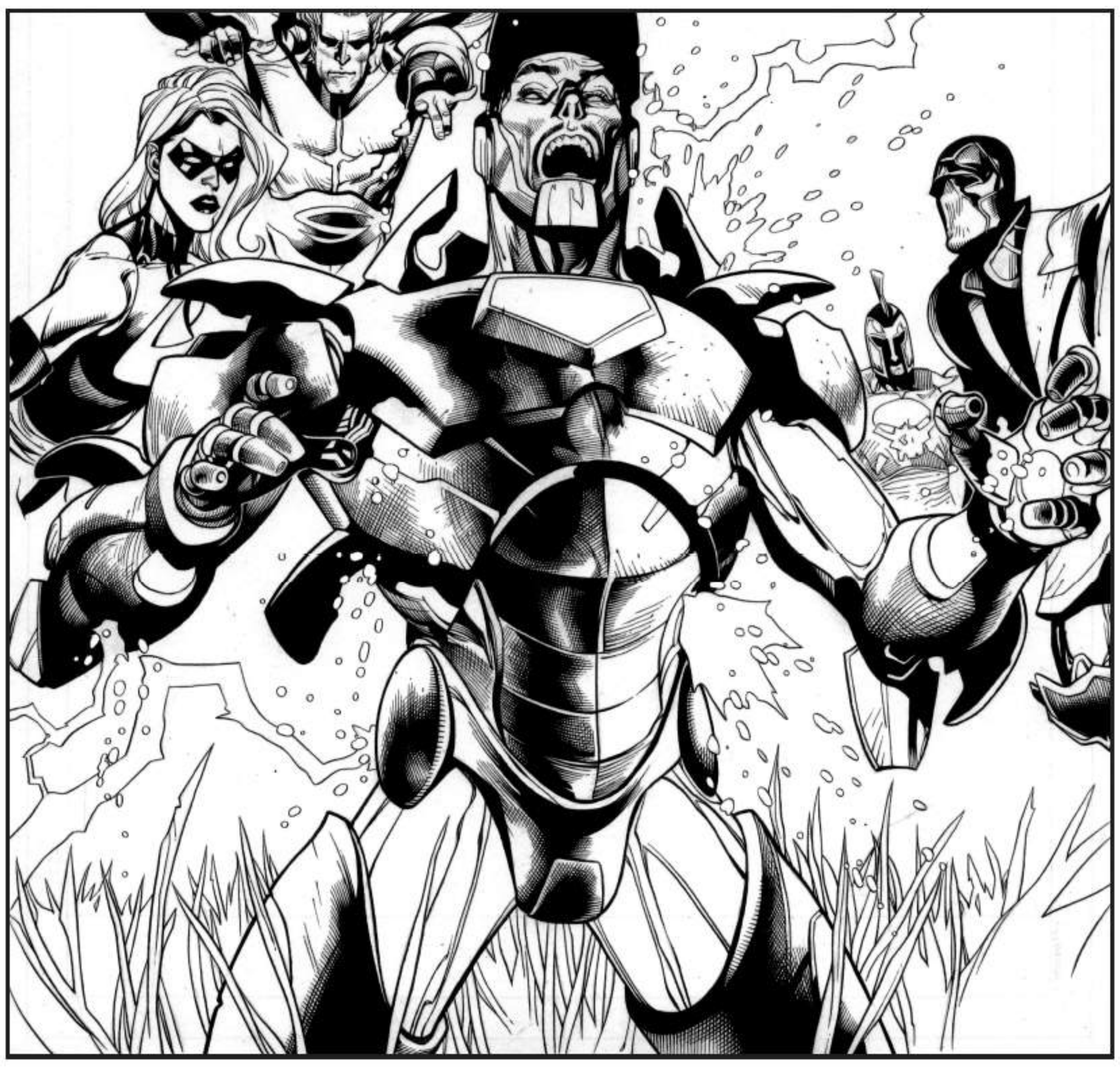
3) Over Jarvis' shoulder, the wall of monitors go to static.
4) Tight on one of the monitors. Small type. Fighting to display itself past the virus that is instantly destroying its programming.
Caption reads: Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.
5) Jarvis blankly stares at the monitors.

JARVIS
He loves you...

6) Ext. Savage Land– Same
Everyone is startled when Tony falls to his knees...
Spx: fump

IRON MAN
Luke you are under—agh!

MS. MARVEL
Tony?



PAGE 24

1) Luke at the huge door to the ship, which is now slightly opened, bent and buckling to his powers. He can't help but turn back to see what is happening to Tony. The New Avengers don't know what to make of it.

BLACK WIDOW
(off panel)
Oh my god! Tony?!
Spider-Man
Uh...

2) Tony, on his knees, his armor actually starts to fall off in useless pieces. The tech is completely misfiring. Giving him a flu. He feels like he might have a heart attack or explode.

Iron Man
GET BACK! EVERYONE JUST—
Spx: clank

THE SENTRY
Should I—?

3) Tight profile. Tony violently vomits on the grass. The biotech in his body is misfiring.

IRON MAN
Hhuaaggh!

4) Ms. Marvel and the others are really concerned. She grabs her com link and gestures for no one to touch him.

MS. MARVEL
Helicarrier one, this is Ms. Marvel. We're in the Savage Land. We need immediate evac for Tony Stark.

THE SENTRY
I can fly him out of here.

MS. MARVEL
No. He said don't touch!
There's something wrong with his—Helicarrier—do you read?

5) Int. Helicarrier war room– Same
Tilted. The Helicarrier is on the fritz. The lights are out except for the red generator lights.
Agents are running or slipping in the harsh red light. The screens are all static or dead.
Maria Hill, in the foreground right, is hold-

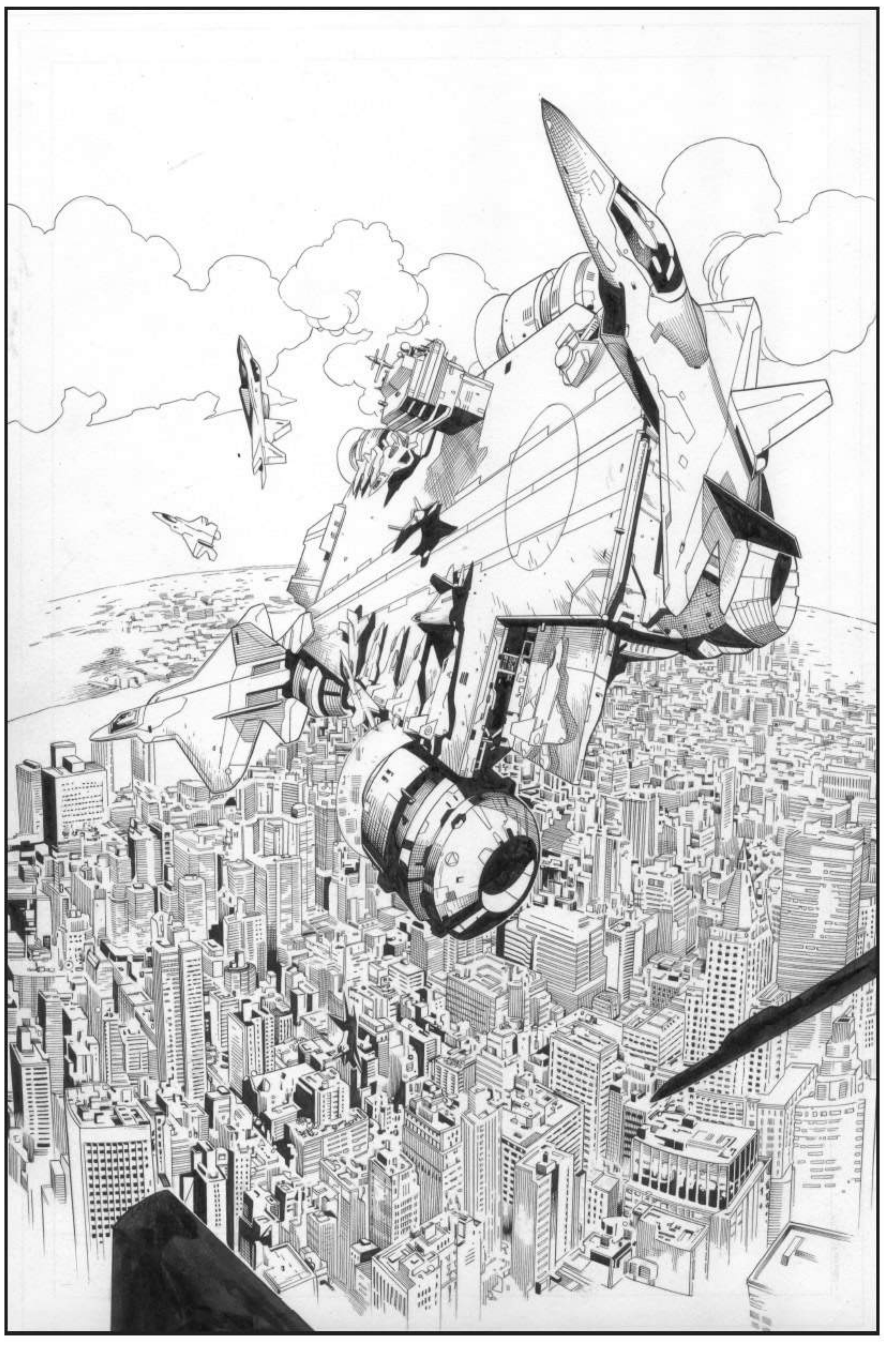
ing on to the railing as the Helicarrier, without power tips over.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT CARTER
Commander Hill, we have full systems malfunction!

DEPUTY DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
This is Maria Hill! All hands!
Abandon ship!

PAGE 25

Full page shot
Ext. S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier– day
Big panel. A gorgeous establishing shot of the S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier. But it's falling out of the sky!!!
Tilting over. Like The Titanic.
It's going down. The giant silver S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier is falling head first out of the clouds. Its bow taking up a mile of the sky.
U.S. fighter planes falling off and around it. Breaking formation.
The biggest flying tank in the world is going to crash to the world. On top of us.
Yu– I've done this bit before but really there was always someone to catch it or stop it. But not this time. This is going down. So really sell it.



PAGE 26

1) Ext. Ryker's Island– Same
A helicopter's p.o.v. A dreary establishing shot of this famous jail. The Rock of the Marvel Universe.
Behind it THE RAFT, a smaller man–made island a mile out. It's another more high tech prison. The Raft. It's a small island a mile off of Ryker's island.
It's under construction but functioning.
Caption: The Raft, Ryker's maximum, maximum security installation.

S.H.I.E.L.D. GUARD
Shockwave

S.H.I.E.L.D. GUARD 2
Check.

S.H.I.E.L.D. GUARD
Victor Von Doom

S.H.I.E.L.D. GUARD 2
Really? Wow. Check.

S.H.I.E.L.D. GUARD
The Armadillo.

S.H.I.E.L.D. GUARD
Seriously?

2) Int. The Raft– Same
Establishing shot of the most high tech and serious prison instillation in the country. All white, all sterile.
See Alias 26 or NA 1 for reference. But you can build on it as it has been rebuilt since.
High ceilings. No doors. Just huge video monitors where windows would be. We're looking at huge images of the villains being broadcast live.
On each monitor we see the sleeping or bored face of the out of costume super-villain that the agents call out and check on their portable computer clipboard.
And there is a guard station at the end of every corner of this huge hallway like corridor.

S.H.I.E.L.D. GUARD
The Armadillo.

S.H.I.E.L.D. GUARD 2
Check.

S.H.I.E.L.D. GUARD
Mandrill.

S.H.I.E.L.D. GUARD 2
Check.

S.H.I.E.L.D. GUARD
Molecule M—

3) Small insert panel of a monitor.
Monitor reads: Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.
4) Same, but the power has gone out. Black panel.
5) Same. The back up generator kicks in. Only to show the subtle outline of the criminals walking out of their cells. The agents cower and are surrounded.

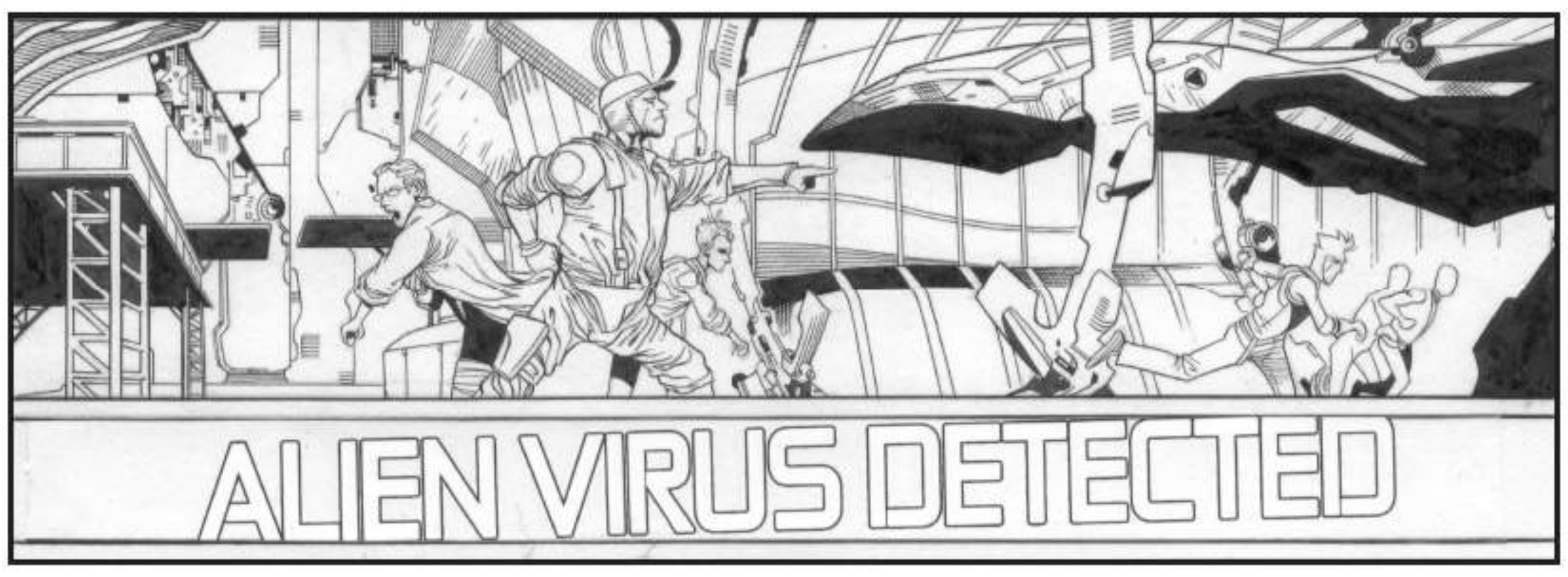
PAGE 27

1) Ext. The Cube– Same
An establishing shot of this famous jail. The Rock of the Marvel Universe. Get the reference.
From the outside the only way to know something is wrong is a Stark helicopter has just crashed in the far distance. A billow of black smoke signaling the horror.
The sky is blood red at dusk. The sun setting.
Caption: THE CUBE maximum security penitentiary.
2) Small insert panel of a monitor.
Monitor reads: Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.
3) Int. Cube. Main hallway– Same
Noh–Varr stands at the entrance of the Warden's quarters he had made his and looks around. The swagger of a guy who owned the place.
Caption reads: Noh–Varr, Marvel Boy, convicted alien Kree terrorist
4) Over Noh–Varr's shoulder, a full scale riot. The criminals are out. They are killing the guards. The tech has failed. It's dark and scary. No words could describe the violence hitting these poor S.H.I.E.L.D agents.
A giant hole has been punched through the steel enforced thick wall. Escapes are happening.
5) Noh–Varr ignores it and walks towards the giant hole that has been punched in the side of the building. Heading toward freedom for the first time in months.

PAGE 28

Widescreen panels. Equal size.
This page is about the growing bedlam caused by this viral attack on Stark tech. This will really ruin Tony's stronghold on earth's defense initiatives.
1) Ext. Stark enterprises Main Plant– Same
Main Plant – Flushing, Queens: A two square mile, multibillion dollar complex, on the shore of Long Island Sound that features extensive research and manufacturing facilities and the vast corporate offices that make up the backbone of S.I.
Guards are running about. Red lights are blaring.
Caption reads: Stark enterprises Main Plant, Flushing, Queens

2) Small insert panel of a monitor.
Monitor reads: Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.



3) Ext. Stark enterprises/Westchester Facility – Same
Westchester, NY: Proving ground for many of Stark's military designs. Facilities include a large windtunnel.
Guards are running about. Red lights are blaring.
Caption reads: Stark enterprises/Westchester Facility
4) Small insert panel of a monitor.
Monitor reads: Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.
5) Ext. Orbit– Same
A plethora of satellites. A crowd of satellites. Hundreds of them. Go get reference. It's funny how crowded it is.
Everything has Stark tech logos on it. There is one satellite that is all black. High tech design. No logo.
Two satellites in the foreground are clearly Stark and clearly they are malfunctioning and colliding into each other. Useless Junk.
Spx: clang
6–)Small insert panel of a monitor.
Monitor reads: Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.
7–)Ext. Stark enterprises/Missile Launch Facility – Same
Missile Launch Facility – Long Island, NY: Missile Launch site located on the tip of Long Island.
Guards are running about. Red lights are blaring.
Caption reads: Stark enterprises/Missile Launch Facility Long Island, NY
8) Small insert panel of a monitor.

Monitor reads: Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.
Alien virus detected.

PAGE 29

1) Ext. Thunderbolt mountain– day
A classic straight on shot of the Thunderbolt mountain on what would have been a gorgeous sunny day.
Caption reads: Thunderbolt mountain
Coyote Springs, Colorado, base of the Thunderbolts

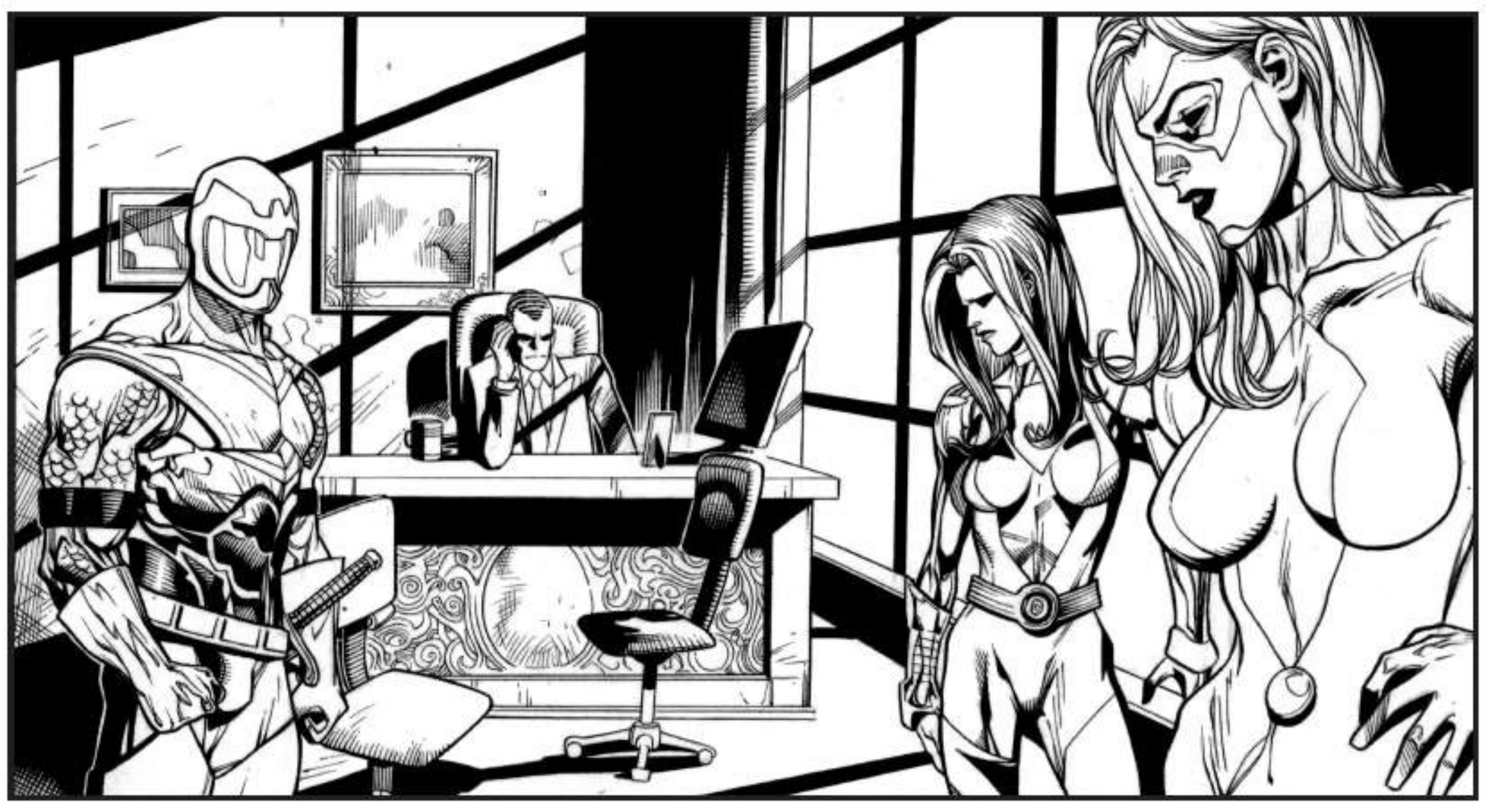
VOICE
I'm saying one of us should go on these shows and we should do some damage control.

2) Int. Thunderbolt mountain– day
Wide of Norman Osborn's office. Norman Osborn is lecturing his Thunderbolts. a tense meeting with Songbird, the Swordsman and Moonstone, the team's field leader, but the power just went out on them.
Caption reads: Norman Osborn, director of the Thunderbolts
Caption reads: Songbird
Caption reads: The Swordsman
Caption reads: Moonstone, field team leader

NORMAN OSBORN
The Thunderbolt program is for putting convicts like yourself—

MOONSTONE
Osborn, I know what the Thunder—

NORMAN OSBORN
I don't think you do. You're criminals. And you work for me. No one cares about your—



3) same but the power goes out. Norman standing backlit behind his desk. The power is off. The place is in lockdown.
We see that Norman is annoyed. The only light coming from outside the windows and the beautiful mountain vista.

MOONSTONE
You forget to pay the bills?

SONGBIRD
We're in lockdown.
NORMAN OSBORN
Someone find out what's going on in—

SONGBIRD
Guarantee you it's Bullseye.

MOONSTONE
Again.

THE SWORDSMAN
Oh, will someone put him out of everyone's @#$%ing—

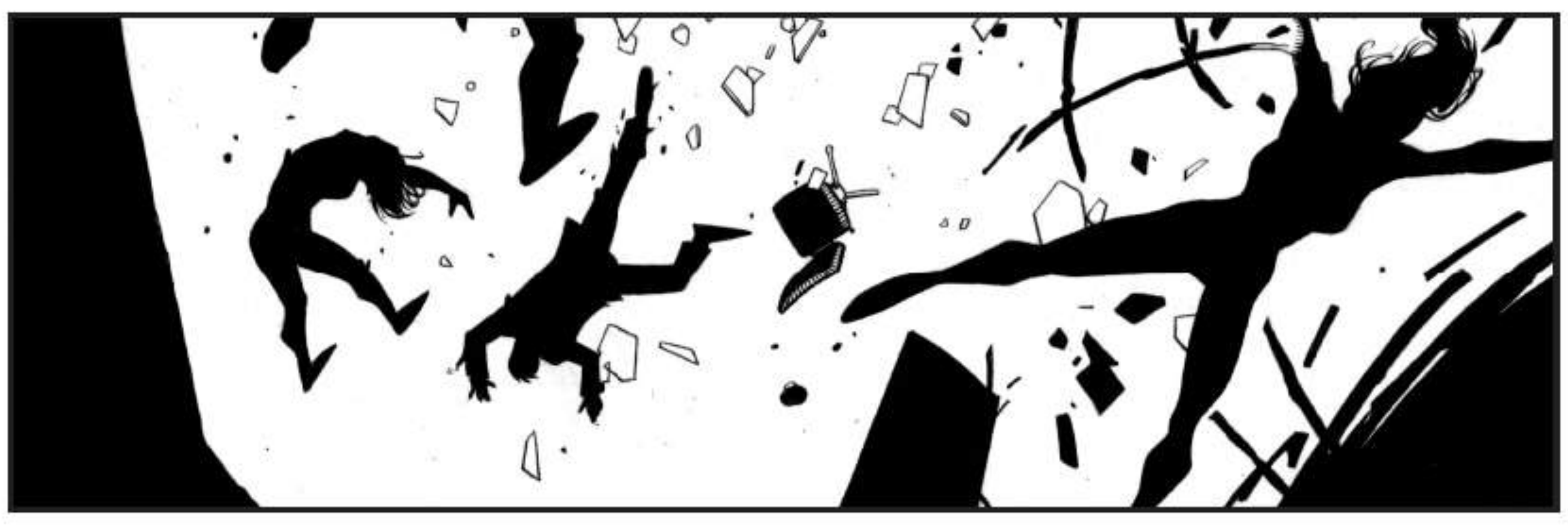
4) Same. The computers explode and the lights explode and light on fire, the lights pop into sparks.
In the sparking dark, we see the Thunderbolts gather around Norman Osborn. Protecting him.
Spx: pop spak pop sping

SONGBIRD
Whoa!

THE SWORDSMAN
Ok, let's get down to the loading docks and get–

5) Everyone in the room is blown off their feet as Norman's giant windows explode. Glass and debris go flying right at them. No one was ready.
Spx: faboom

SONGBIRD
Agh!



PAGE 30

Full page spread
From behind the head and shoulder's of Norman Osborn and the other bleeding, dazed Thunderbolts.

We now see that Captain Marvel has smashed through the window and is hovering there with glowing bands. Backlit to the mountains and sun.
His features backlit, are they even human?

PAGE 31

1) Ext. Manhattan/ Baxter building– day
Its the Baxter Building. It's gorgeous. Light gleams off the side.
The Baxter Building is crammed right into the heart of Manhattan. As if it's just another building in Manhattan.

VOICE
Welcome to the home of the Fantastic Four— the first family of the fantastic.

2) Int. Baxter Building– Same
A tour guide, plastered with a fake smile and a slightly cheesy fantastic four type Disneyland style uniform, is waving in a motley group of tourists of every shape and size as they waddle through the huge lobby.
It's an ordinary high finance office tower lobby, but to the right is the Fantastic Four elevators. a glowing hologram portrait of the Four smiles down at everyone.
The security desk is rather nice and pleasant and the woman behind it is a half robot/half female. She looks like a normal pleasant receptionist. Behind her a big Fantastic Four logo.

TOUR GUIDE
Not only is this their home, but this is also the location of the amazing laboratories of professor Reed Richards who won the nobel prize for discovering the existence of what we refer to as "The Negative Zone."

3) An African American man stops at a huge ficus plant and holds back from the group as they mosey off panel.

TOUR GUIDE
A parallel dimension whose properties and sciences are a skewed and unexplainable version of our own.

4) Same but tighter on the African American man who is morphing subtly into a blonde woman.
5) Same but tighter. The man is now turned into Sue Storm. Invisible Woman.
6) Int. Baxter Building living quarters– Same
Small panel. The elevator 'up' arrow is pointing up and is lit.
7) The elevator doors open to show a blank faced Sue Storm.

COMPUTER VOICE
I.D. confirmed
Welcome home, Susan.

PAGE 32

1) Over Sue's head it's a totally normal living room/den/totally normal. Creepily normal. Toys in the corner. Dvds TV. Couch. Lived in.
The kids are laughing and playing with Uncle Johnny. Valeria is jumping on couch. Franklin is playing with his Wii.

FRANKLIN
Hi, mommy.

JOHNNY STORM
Hey, sis, I thought you were in Vancouver.

2) From behind Johnny and Franklin, she is walking into the next room without talking.

FRANKLIN
Mommy?

JOHNNY STORM
Sue?

3) Johnny and the kids are confused by the brush off.

FRANKLIN
Mommy needs a time out?

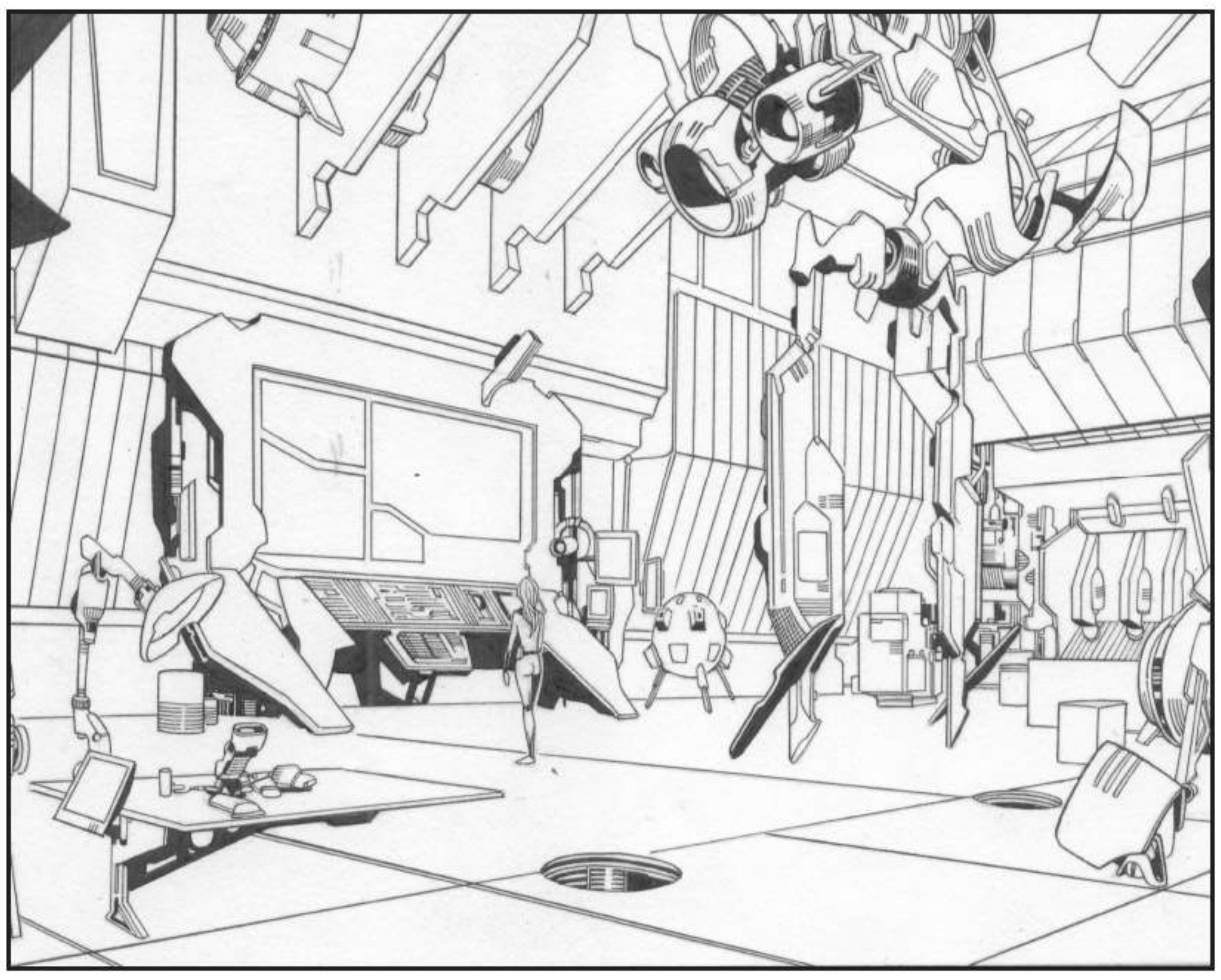
JOHNNY STORM
Guess so.

4) Int. Baxter Building laboratory– day.
Tight on Sue's eye being scanned.

COMPUTER VOICE
I.D. confirmed
Welcome, Susan Richards.

5) Wide of the huge laboratory/ work station. The room goes on for the length and width of most of the building. It looks like a warehouse floor.
Tons of technology at Reed's disposal. The room is equal parts sterile and cluttered.
Sue, in the background, standing in his lone-

some, spacious tech world.
In the foreground, the amazing sight of the Negative Zone.
A huge, huge plasma tech screen. Huge, thirty feet high, forty feet across. Scanning it for life forms and activity.
Small digital read outs and printouts and small, auxiliary screens going on all around him.
Digital read: NEGATIVE ZONE VIEWER. QUADRANT 45–55



6) Sue puts her hand on the controls. She's working them.
Caption reads: NEGATIVE ZONE PORTAL, WARNING. USE CAUTION.

PAGE 33

1) From behind Sue, the Negative zone portal opens. Sue's backlit frame. She just stands there and lets the negative abyss wash over her.

COMPUTER VOICE
Negative zone breach.
Danger. Danger.
4) Wide of the lab. Profile. The Negative Zone is pouring into the laboratory. The laboratory is flying into the Negative Zone.
The room is bending and pulling into pieces as matter and anti-matter collide. Some pieces are just erupting. Buckling from the unearthly change in matter.
Sue stands there. Her hair whipping hard. She is ready to die.
5) Int. Baxter Building living quarters– Same
Johnny and the kids turn. Their hair blowing. The room is already infected with negative matter.
Pieces of the building just disappear and start imploding on themselves. Little big bangs. As though a bite has been taken out of them. Also strange crackling Kirby–energy starts consuming everything.
6) From behind Johnny, half the room has turned into the Negative Zone. The Negative Zone is swallowing the room.
Valeria is already floating up in the air and screaming. The entire room is bending unnaturally.

FRANKLIN
Uh—

VALERIA
Uncle Johnny!

7) Johnny, half on fire, yells. Terrified. This is the end.

JOHNNY STORM
Susan!

PAGE 34

Two half page panels.
1) Ext. Manhattan– day
Its the Baxter Building. Its gorgeous. Light gleams off the side. Except that it looks like someone took a bite out of the top of it. Negative Zone is eating the building.
The building, the air, everything in its way. An unearthly crackle around the edge of where the building is falling apart.
2) Same, but half the building has been eaten by the negative zone and is imploding on itself. And it's not stopping.

PAGE 35

Widescreen panels. Getting thinner and thinner down the page.
1) Ext. Savage Land– Same
High looking down. Tony is on the ground, foam coming out of his mouth. His eyes rolled up into the back of his head.

IRON MAN
Aaagghh!

THE SENTRY
I'm taking him.

BLACK WIDOW
He's having a seizure. Give me a branch. Something for him to bite on.

2) The New Avengers are amazed, and concerned. Luke is pointing. He's sure it's a trick.

IRON FIST
What's wrong with him?

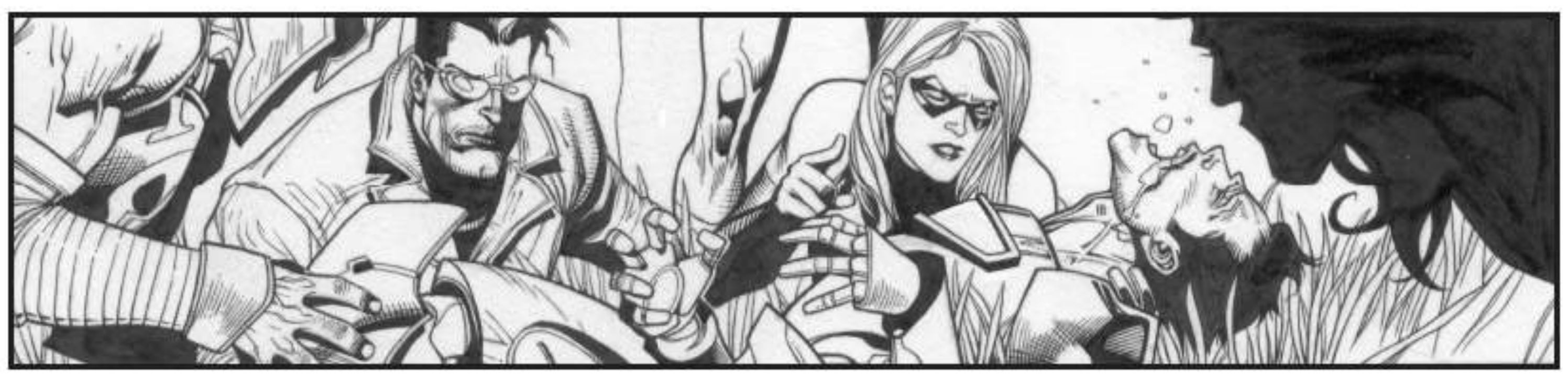
LUKE CAGE
It's bull@#$%. It's—

SPIDER-MAN
I don't think it is. I think he's been infected with something—

3) In the huddle around Tony, Ms. Marvel holding Tony's head is pointing to Sentry to help.

MS. MARVEL
It's not a trick, Luke. Tony, can you hear me?

BLACK WIDOW
Get this armor off of him. Ares grab the boots.



4) From behind Wolverine, everyone's attention is on Tony's seizure. Wolverine turns to a profile and sniffs the air. He smells it.

WONDER MAN
What could do this to him?

SPIDER-MAN
A virus, maybe, but I don't know any kind that he wouldn't be able to instantly deflect—

MS. MARVEL
Get all of this armor off of him.

4) Same but tighter as Wolverine turns toward us, looking over his own shoulder. Some of the other New Avengers turn and see it too.
There is something off panel so shocking that it distracts everyone from a Tony Stark seizure.
5) Same but tighter. The entire group has turned to see what Wolverine sees. Everyone is shocked. Mouths wide open. Words can't help them here.

6) Same but now tight on Wolverine's eyes.

PAGE 36– 37

Double page spread
1) Wide across both pages. And 3/4's down. Close to full figure.
Out of the hatch comes an amazing group of marvel heroes circa the 1970's. In the glory of their retro costume designs and younger days.
They come out, not to attack, but looking around. Wincing at the sunlight. Not sure where they are or how they got here.
Original Phoenix, Spidey with web pits, Iron Man with the nose armor, Luke Cage in satin shirt and tiara, original Ms. Marvel, Jewel, original Vision, classic Scarlet Witch, , classic Thor, classic Hawkeye, blue furry Beast, Sue Storm, original Wonder–man design, Mockingbird. Captain America, evil Emma Frost, and Wolverine in the Hulk 181 costume.

CLASSIC LUKE CAGE
Sweet Christmas!

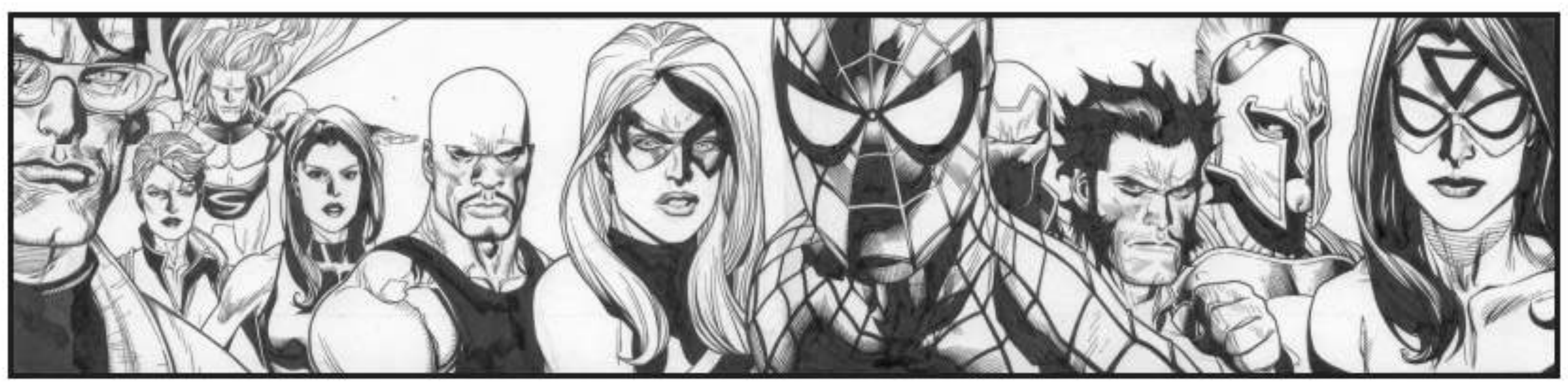
CLASSIC MS. MARVEL
Is this it?
Did we make it back to earth?

CLASSIC BEAST
Oh my stars and garters!

CLASSIC SPIDEY
Yeah, I was just about to say that... cuz...
I know who I am...

2) Wide across the bottom of the spread. The New Avengers have backed up to gather with the Mighty Avengers. United in their mouth opened shock.
The modern, darker, dirty versions of all the characters stare at their more innocent version of themselves in shock.

CLASSIC SPIDEY
(off panel))
But who are you guys supposed to be exactly?



PAGE 38

1) Int. Stark's secret warehouse– Same
The dead, nude corpse of Elektra Skrull lies there. She has been cut open.
Hank Pym and Reed Richards are both working at little stations they have. Reed in the foreground is hand writing into a notebook and jotting down what he sees in his microscope.
In the foreground right, His handmade portable communication device is blinking but he has put it aside and is not paying attention to it.

It reads: Baxter building emergency
2) Tighter on Reed scribbles some notes. Making some formulas.
3) Same. Reed looks up. He figured it out.

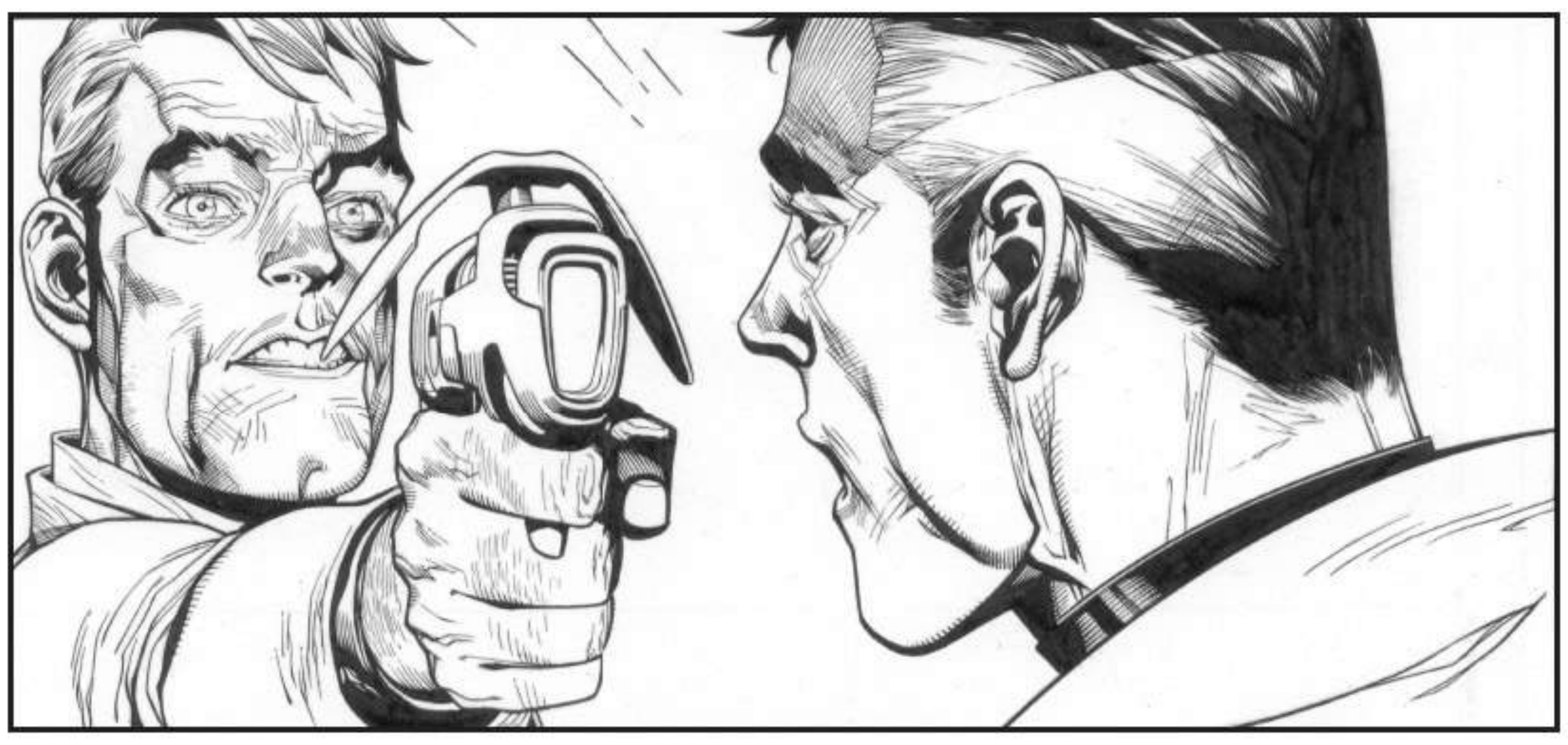
REED RICHARDS
I—I think I got it.
I know how they made themselves undetectable.

4) Over Hank's standing silhouette shoulder, Reed turns around and is pointing to his notes and thinking out loud. Looking at the notebook and not Hank.

REED RICHARDS
You know what the Skrulls did? They took—

5) Over Reed's shoulder, Hank Pym is standing there with an alien weapon. He has a weapon to Reed's head. Backlit and ominous.

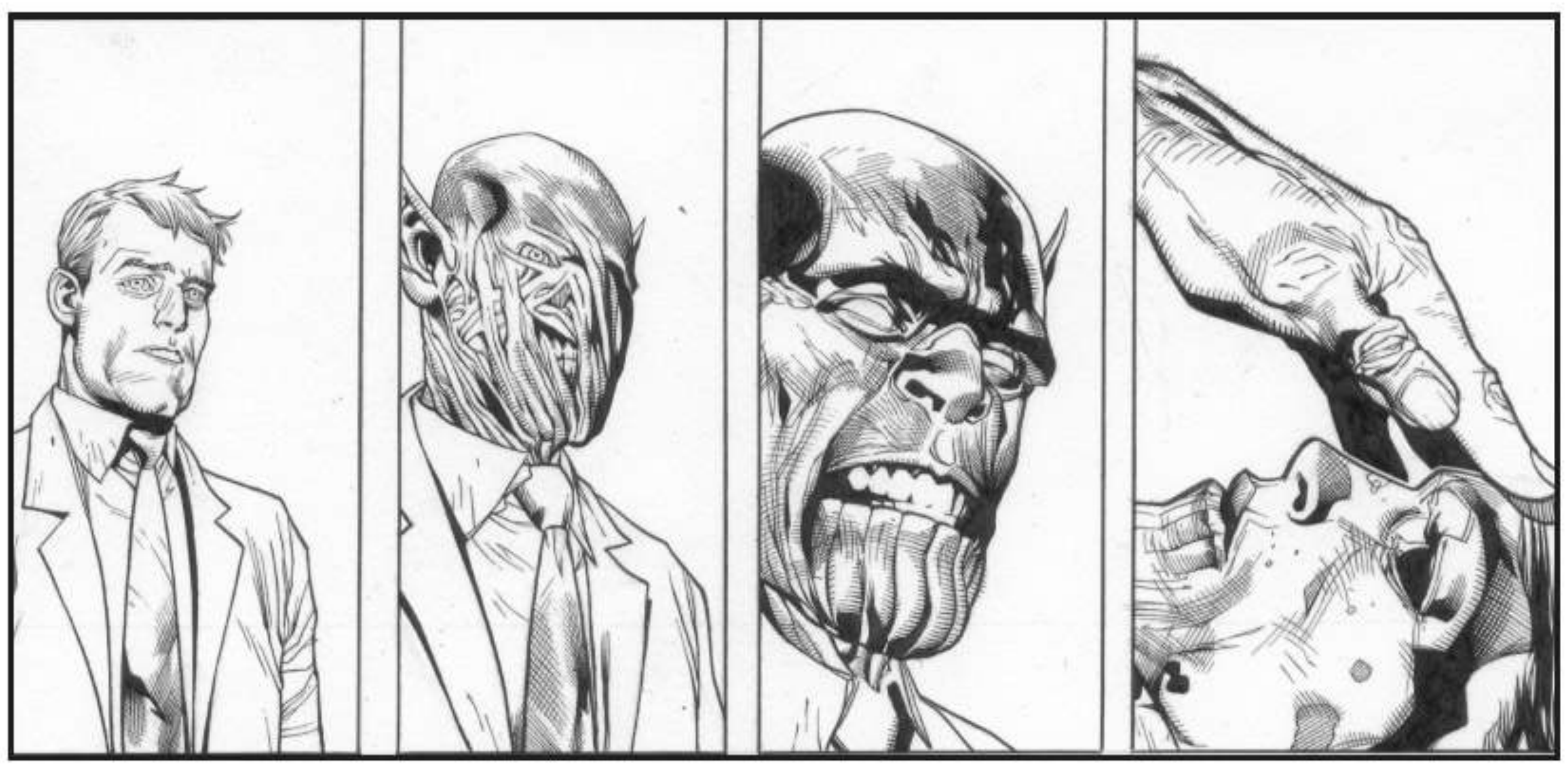
HANK PYM
I do actually.



PAGE 39

1) Profile, Hank holds out his Skrull weapon at arm's length and blows Reed's brains out. His head stretches violently but does not break. His eyes almost fall out of their stretched sockets.
Spx: fshammm
2) 'Camera' on the floor. Reed falls to the floor in a puddle of rubber. He's completely lost his shape. Is this what he looks like when he is dead?
3) Slightly low looking up. Hank looks down. No sign of emotion. Backlit.
4) Same. With a twinge of discomfort. He turns back to his natural form.
5) Same. And with a sigh of relief. He is free to be a Skrull again. Our first 'Skrull' the entire issue. Backlit and menacing.
6) His Skrull fingertips gently touch the forehead of his fallen comrade. The dead Elektra.

HANK PYM
He even loves you.



PAGE 40– 41

Double page spread
1) Ext. Earth orbit– Same
The wreckage of the S.W.O.R.D. space station. Agent Brand is trying to communicate. Floating in the wreckage of her space station.

SPECIAL AGENT ABIGAIL BRAND
Helicarrier, please come in!
This is Agent Brand. Please, the station is gone! We have massive casualties! And–and my people are stuck out here. Can you hear me? We've only ten more minutes of air...

2) Same but tighter on Brand. Her case drops as she looks up and sees the impossible.
3) Wide across both pages. The Skrull armada!! They are here!! In orbit!! They have arrived!! 77 ships of every shape and size. A massive amount of war ships and transports. All with the Skrull markings. A couple single seat scout ships with Skrull warriors flying recon. And poor Agent Brand, her figure so tiny against the coming invasion.

To be continued!!

MIGHTY AVENGERS
ISSUE #12 SCRIPT
by BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

Alex- the spy that came in from the cold, Munich, the parallax view, three days of the condor.

Break out your art style we're planning for the Spider-Woman series. This issue represents a tone very close to what the series will be. This is a good place to work towards it.

PAGE 1
RECAP AND CREDIT PAGE.
Earth's Mightiest Heroes united against a common threat! On that day The Avengers were born - to fight foes that no single hero could withstand!

Previously in the Mighty Avengers...

One year ago! Nick Fury, director of S.H.I.E.L.D., the world peacekeeping task force and international espionage coalition, discovers the alarming fact that dozens of low-rent technology-based super-criminals are being secretly funded by what America thinks is a new ally. The new prime minister of Latveria.

When Fury tells the president his alarming news, that these criminals are now technically terrorists, he is blown off and dismissed.

Fury, in a panic, knowing that something big is brewing, something nightmarish, vows to do something to stop this even if his government won't.

Fury gathered some of the world's most colorful and misunderstood heroes--Wolverine, Daredevil, Spider-Man, Captain America, Black Widow, and Luke Cage--for a covert trip to Latveria.

What the heroes did not know is that Fury brought them there to violently overthrow the terrorist Latverian government. After the violence had occurred and the day was won, Fury erased the horrible memory from the heroes' minds.
It was only later, when Latveria launched a revenge attack that they discovered the nature of Fury's betrayal.

PAGE 2
Same as Page 28, of issue #5 of Secret War #5. The last appearance of Nick fury. Ask Tom for reference.
1- Ext. Manhattan/ piers- night

From behind Fury, Fury turns around just in time for Logan to lunge up and swing his claws wide and slice Nick Fury hard in the stomach. Berserker rage takes hold of him.

In the background, everyone is horrified!! The X-Men, The Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, Luke Cage, Daredevil... all battle worn and tired. They were all listening to Fury's confession. No one expected this.

Logan slices him wide. It's horrible. Everyone is diving to stop it.

Reads: ONE YEAR AGO

2- Low, looking up. Nick falls backwards to the messy pier, Logan on top of him. Another slash is coming. Berserker rage overpowers his intellect. One mind-wipe too many.

We don't get a good look at Fury yet.

LOGAN
You don't touch my head!!!!!

3- From over Daisy Johnson's (think young Angelina Jolie in a S.H.I.E.L.D. uniform) head and shoulder, Reed Richards stretches and grabs Logan's arms and Spidey webs him back to try to help stop this. And the X-Men are already there holding him back. Logan lunges for Daisy next. Totally out of control.
Sue Storm was going to block it with a force field but wasn't given the chance.

SPIDER-MAN
Whoa!!

CYCLOPS
Logan!!

LOGAN
You don't touch my head!!!!

4- Daisy stands her ground and points her finger. She has earthquake powers and will use them. And yells right at us.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT DAISY JOHNSON
Stop.

PAGE 3
Images from page 30 of Secret War #5 mixed in with new images.

1- From over Daredevil, The Thing's and Reed Richards' heads looking down at the ground, at what they thought would be the bleeding body of Nick Fury.

But there's no blood, just blobs of orange. It's not Fury. It's a life-model decoy.

Richards stretches in to examine it. Daisy stands over the odd sight lying on the wet pier.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT DAISY JOHNSON
Yeah, um...

The colonel excused himself from the scene once the threat was done.

2- Low, looking up, the gathered heroes are shocked. Logan is in an insane amount of pain but already healing. The X-Men tend to him.

REED RICHARDS
That's a...life-model decoy?

THE THING
Wow, they're making them good now.

3- The shocked group of heroes p.o.v. Nick's fake body lies there and gurgles orange.

NICK FURY
New design.
I know you're ssssteamin' but don't worry.
This was my biiiiig finish.
I'm done.
I ddddodged the politics of this once- I ccccan't do it again.

4- Int. Nick Fury's hideaway bunker- Same
Tight profile, on Nick Fury's scruffy lips speaking into a thin microphone. Silhouette.

NICK FURY
You'll never see or hear from me again.

There's nothing more I can do here.

5- Ext. Manhattan/piers- night
The shocked group of heroes. Spider-Woman isn't satisfied. Neither is Daredevil. Reed is looking up and around.

NICK FURY
That's why I came ccccclean with ya here.

Let you hhhhhear it straight from me.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
Where is he?

REED RICHARDS

He's broadcasting from somewhere.
6- Int. Nick Fury's hideaway bunker- Same
Same as 4, but wider. Nick talks into his microphone. Silhouette. Behind him, a hint of the hidden, covert bunker he is hiding away in.

NICK FURY
You are heroes. More than me.

Maybe one day you'll look around and you'll see the world like I have to and you'll know I did the right thing.

Or at least you'll understand why I did it.
7- Ext. Manhattan/piers- night

Fury's LMD doesn't move. He's not there anymore. The life-model decoy is non-operational.

NICK FURY
Signin' offfffffffff.

PAGE 4
1- Int. Sewer safe house- Same
Behind Nick Fury, backlit, he sits back and looks at the stacked monitors in front of him.
Nick Fury's underground safe house.

Backlit to a dim industrial yellow light. One of those lights like they use in tunnels that runs on its own generator and is always on.

The room itself is shown in Civil War #2 and NA #21. A dark, dank, underground safe house built and tucked away by Nick Fury.

A handful of stacked monitors and computer terminals. It's all pieced together. Not high tech. The opposite. But effective, none the less.

A few trunks and crates and boxes unboxed. A couple of chairs. A cot. Really, a place to go at the end of the world.

This room is very shadow-laden. Shadows and cobwebs. Except for the screens that show five different angles of the scene on the docks. The agitated heroes.

We imagine the life-model decoy is still broadcasting a low, looking up view. Daisy has a view from her belt buckle.

And Nick has an eye in the sky somewhere looking wide of the scene.

2- Tight on Nick Fury, looking in pain at the life he now has to leave behind.

This is not an easy choice. This hurts. Those are his friends, comrades and soldiers. He betrayed them and now he is abandoning them.

3- Nick is leaving the room and walking away from us and the monitors in the foreground, profile, right. He has turned everything off. Closed the crates. Taken what he needed.

He has a bag over his shoulder and is walking into the shadows of the hidden sewers.

He is leaving his life behind. Head hung low.

PAGE 5
1- Ext. Mexico City- day
Wide of a cobblestone street off the main street of Mexico City. Small, rundown, yet ornate buildings all around. An orange sun rises. A blanket dries on a laundry line.

In the background, a man, a couple of stories up, a bald man with a handlebar mustache, a paunch and an eyepatch is drinking a bottled water and looking out at the world. Lost in thought.

He stands on the smallish balcony of his not entirely horrible, but not great, hotel.

Reads: ONE MONTH LATER

2- Tighter on the balcony. Mid shot of the man, a bald man with a handlebar mustache, a paunch and an eyepatch is drinking a bottled water and looking out at the world. Lost in thought.

This is Nick Fury in disguise.

3- Int. Hotel room- Same
Nick turns and looks into his room when he hears a noise at the door.

We see the room is barely lived in. There's one suitcase of clothes and nothing that says he is the superspy of superspies.

4- Nick's p.o.v. of the door to the room. Someone is jiggling the lock.
SFX: rattle

5- Tight on Nick, he approaches the side of the door next to the small closet. Ready to take all comers. He has pulled a small but clearly high-tech revolver. The sun hits it.

6- Over Nick's shoulder, a handsome middle-aged Italian woman with a throw of blond hair in a handsome but rugged outfit stumbles into the room with wide eyes and a big smile. This is Countess Valentina Allegra de Fontaine in disguise, a big bag over her shoulder. An expensive one.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
Oh I'm sorry, I must have the wrong room.

7- In the foreground, her silhouetted hand closes the door, with her on the inside. Nick squints at her.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
So...
Do you like?

NICK FURY
Were you followed?

PAGE 6
1- Over Nick's shoulder, Countess Valentina Allegra de Fontaine pulls off her wig to reveal her trademark skunk hair and beauty.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
Would I come here if I was?

2- Nick puts the gun away as Valentina takes her hug. A hug she knows she has to take because he doesn't give them out freely. Nick is surprised to hear what she is saying.

NICK FURY
How's the real world doing without me?

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
They cleaned house.

NICK FURY
You're out.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent Countess Valentina Allegra de Fontaine has been decommissioned.

Anyone who knew you is out. Sam, Jenny, Quartermain, everyone except Dugan.

3- Same but tighter. She really relaxes into him. He doesn't relax.

NICK FURY
What are ya gonna do now?

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
What are YOU going to do now?

NICK FURY
I guess we're supposed to live happily ever after.

4- Over Nick's shoulder, she breaks the hug and smiles at him knowingly. She knows he is incapable.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
That would be nice.

You certainly earned it. We both earned it.

5- He looks at her. Lost and lonely and she is the face of everything he should have ever needed.

NICK FURY
Feels odd though, don't it?

6- Same as 4,

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
You did what you had to do.

History will be kind.

7- Nick's not so sure. He did it, but what now?

8- Same as 6, she touches his face.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
Hey...

PAGE 7
1- They are about to kiss. She tiptoes up. Lips close. She smiles. Teasing. Seducing.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
I went out of my way to make my disguise something you'd like.

NICK FURY
Didn't say I didn't.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
And what are you supposed to be?

NICK FURY
Disguised.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
Would it have killed you to try something a little less...bald?

2- They kiss. Hard. Passionate. Lovers in a dangerous world. For a long long time.

They are both mostly silhouettes in the sunlight outside the window.
3- Countess Valentina Allegra de Fontaine almost attacks him with the second kiss. The passion is so intense. She doesn't even realize she is doing it. Her hand on the back of his head.

4- Pulling past them out to the patio and the sun outside.

5- Tighter on the hot orange Mexican sun.

6- Int. Hotel bedroom- dusk

The sun has dissolved to a tight shot of Nick Fury's good eye. Staring at nothing. At us. The sun's glow bounces off of it.

PAGE 8
1- Int. Hotel bedroom- dusk

High looking down, Nick Fury, not in disguise, lies in bed, covered in a sheet. The late day sun sliding over their roughed-up bedroom. They have made love.

He was lost in thought but just notices that Valentina is getting dressed and getting ready to go.

NICK FURY
Where ya going?

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
I'm going to go get whatever that amazing smell outside is.

NICK FURY
Want me to come?

2- Valentina puts on her wig and smiles as she adjusts it.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
No, I'll bring you breakfast...or dinner...in bed.

3- She leans in and kisses him on the temple. He doesn't budge. Just a slight smirk.
4- Nick, in profile, doesn't seem to look her way as she leaves the way she came in.
SFX: clump

5- He sits up. As if he was waiting for her to leave to do so.

6- Over Nick's shoulder. He hides behind the curtain and looks down to the street. He watches her leave in a certain direction.

7- Ext. Mexican street/ alley- Same
Valentina is walking away from the restaurant that is cooking a pig on its patio. She is walking by a broken old column and looking around to see if she is being followed.

PAGE 9
1- Same, but Valentina is off panel and Nick, in his disguise, is peeking around the same column she just passed. Serious. Focused.

2- Tighter on Nick. He touches a button on his watch and looks to see that no one is watching.
SFX: gleek

3- Same, Nick disappears. He turns invisible. It's a cloak. We can still see a light Photoshop outline. Like Sue Storm in the *Fantastic Four* movies.

4- Nick's p.o.v. Valentina is a block away, walking through a crowd. Her blonde hair sticks out among the Mexicans. She is turning a male head or two.

5- Nick, invisible, walks towards us and though the same crowd unseen. Everyone goes about their life.

6- Nick's p.o.v. Valentina is turning a corner. Almost out of sight.

7- Nick, stops at the entrance of a alley way/ walk through street. Voices off-panel to the right.

MAN
Did you get them?

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
I got his confidence. It will take a week at least.

MAN
A week?

PAGE 10
1- Over Nick's invisible shoulder. Valentina is talking to a thin, agitated black man. They are not friendly. All business.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
He's not a stupid man.

MAN
Get his passcodes to his private S.H.I.E.L.D.
files and eliminate him.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
Calm down.

MAN
You-

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
Calm down!

Tell the queen I'm in place.

2- Nick's p.o.v. Valentina is really annoyed to be talked to like this. He is very nervous and itchy. Like an addict.

MAN
You should get the-

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
Tell the queen. You do your task. OK?

MAN
The more time you spend with him the riskier the-

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
Stop talking.

Go.

I'll find you.

3- Over Nick's invisible shoulder. Valentina walks right past invisible Nick. She doesn't notice Fury. Leaving the agitated man in the alley.

4- Nick's p.o.v. The man is very nervous and itchy. Like an addict. He is walking away but turns back. Like he feels he is being watched.

5- Tight on the invisible Nick Fury. Blank-faced in the face of betrayal.

6- Int. Hotel bedroom- late dusk
Valentina comes back into the room with yummy ethnic dinner and drinks. A box of food and paper plates with a smile.

VALENTINA
OK, so it smells better than it looks, but that's the-

7- Same but tighter, Valentina's face drops. As she looks down to the bed.

PAGE 11
1- Int. Hotel bedroom- dusk
Nick is sitting there. With a very shiny, high tech, silencer gun pointed right at her.

NICK FURY
Who are you...really?

2- Valentina calmly puts the food down and approaches. Cautiously.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
Come on, Nicholas...

Really?

3- Same as 1, he doesn't budge.

4- Valentina puts her back against the doorway. Respecting his position. But not giving in to it.

VALENTINA
Are you cracking?

Put it down, or I'm leaving.

5- Same as 3.

NICK FURY
One more time.

Who are you really?

6- Same as 4, Valentina sighs. She doesn't know what's wrong with him.

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT VALENTINA
This is very dissa-

7- Same. Nick shoots her in the head. Her forehead has a hole in it and blood splatters. Her wig moves.
SFX: fut
SFX: spack

PAGE 12
1- Big panel. Over the shoulder of Nick Fury looking down to the ground.

Valentina lies dead...but it's not Valentina. It's a Skrull in Valentina's clothes, covered in blue blood.

Valentina wasn't Valentina. Valentina was a Skrull. Her head turned away slightly. Her blood is purple-blue.
Alex- it's important that this Skrull be as ugly and real as possible. This is not a goofy alien. This is a serious threat. Horrifying. Terrible.

2- Camera on the floor. She lies on the floor. Silhouette. In the foreground. He gets out of bed and approaches her dead body. Examining it.

3- Same but tighter of Fury. Slight low looking up. He is confused. Sickened. Angry. Embarrassed. All these things at once.

PAGE 13
1- Ext. Rooftop- day
Nick Fury is invisible again. We see his outline standing next to a satellite dish on an old dusty, dirty rooftop.

2- Nick Fury's p.o.v. Looking across the street, down to the patio of what was his hotel room. He watches the hotel room.

The man Valentina Skrull was talking to the other day and two women are in his hotel room. They are dealing with the body.

3- Nick Fury, invisible, holds up a cell phone-like device, looking through it with his good eye.

4- Big panel. Nick Fury's p.o.v. through the device. He is zooming in on the conversation. One of the women is yelling at the man. Not yelling, more like bawling out.

We can see the screen, but everything else about Nick is invisible.

This is a tense moment. The other woman is wrapping up the body and gesturing for the other two to help.

On the screen we see the REC sign in the upper left. We can see the alien font of their dialogue.

On the bottom right reads: LINGUIST IDENTIFICATION. SKRULL, TLIGI DIALECT

MAN
(Skrull font)

WOMAN
(Skrull font)

5- Nick Fury, invisible, is watching, recording, and steaming.

6- Over Nick Fury's shoulder, the man walks off to the patio and looks around. Taking a moment to himself, as the two women take the wrapped body and head out.

7- Widescreen. Over the man's shoulder, he looks across the rooftop, to where Nick Fury is standing. There's nothing there. Nothing but the hot sun and the satellite dish.

PAGE 14
1- Ext. S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier- night
Big panel. A gorgeous establishing shot of the S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier.

Worm's-eye view looking up at the gorgeous blue sky.

The giant silver S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier descends out of the clouds, its bow taking up a mile of the early dawn sky.

U.S. fighter planes flying off and around it in formation. The biggest flying tank in the world keeping watch over all of us.

Reads: S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier.
Floating world headquarters of the U.N.

Peacekeeping task force.

Present location: 1000 feet over San Jose, California

Reads: TWO WEEKS LATER

2- Int. S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier/ private quarters- Same

Tight on Nick Fury's fingers typing away at a thick, metal, hard-core personal laptop.
SFX: tap tap tap tap tap tap tap

3- Tight on Fury, lit by the light of the laptop. Not in disguise or invisible. He is himself. Typing, searching, researching.
SFX: tap tap tap tap tap tap tap

4- Maria Hill is asleep in her bunk in a sports bra and light blanket. Sleeping on her hands.

SFX: tap tap tap tap tap tap tap

5- Same but tighter, Maria wakes from her deep sleep.

SFX: tap tap tap tap tap tap tap

6- Over Maria's shoulder, Nick Fury is at a table across the room. In her room, typing away on the computer. In the dark.

The room is a no-frills quarters. Barely lived in. She hasn't been on board that long. Her clothes are everywhere. She just tosses them wherever she takes them off. One wall of the room is a giant window showing a bit of the Helicarrier underbelly in perspective and the view of the world she is protecting.

7- Maria sits up. Rubbing her face, she can't believe it.

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
Oh

my

god!

PAGE 15

1- Over Maria's shoulder, Nick Fury keeps typing. As if nothing here is out of the ordinary.

NICK FURY
Maria Hill. Director of S.H.I.E.L.D

We've met before, you and I.

2- Maria is awake. Sitting up in her bed, amazed, not sure what to do. Not completely sure if she is dreaming or not.

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
Once.

NICK FURY
Where?

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
Madripoor.

3- Nick closes the laptop and removes most of the light from the room as he does. The moonlit sky out the large window lighting the dark room.

NICK FURY
Oh, that's where I know you from?

4- Maria squints her nose She knows this is bull.

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
Don't pretend that the great Nick Fury who can sneak into the Helicarrier didn't learn every damn thing about me before he broke in.

5- Nick sits forward and smiles.

NICK FURY
Yeah, you're right.

So how's my old job?

6- Maria shrugs. An honest answer.

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
I've had better.

Oh, and you're under arrest.

7- Same as 5, like he didn't hear her.

NICK FURY
How'd you get the job?

8- Same as 6.

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
How'd you lose it?

8- Nick leans forward. His hands touching. Serious. This is for real...

NICK FURY
I came here to tell you two things...

PAGE 16

Widescreen panels.

1- Nick, profile, right, looks right at her off panel and says it how it is.

NICK FURY
I came here to tell you that you're not safe.
You are surrounded by those who are looking to take you out.

Including people aboard this ship.

2- Nick's p.o.v. Maria, full figure, sitting up on the side of her bed. She's really actually scared of him and this warning.

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
You think?

NICK FURY
Take my advice and make yourself some of the new design life-model decoys.

About a dozen to start.

Start using them.

Send them in when you feel that itch on the back of your neck.

It's not cheating and it's not cowardly.

It's smart thinking.

3- Same as 1. He doesn't budge.

NICK FURY
The other thing is I'll be watching you.
First inkling I get that you ain't what you're supposed to be...

you ain't doin' what's in the best interest of...the planet.

I come in here, while you're sleeping.

You never wake up.

You know plenty of people that know I ain't BSin' you about that.

4- Maria stares at him. Her mouth hanging open.

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
Got a number I can reach you...in case I need any advice?

5- Over Maria's shoulder, Fury salutes her almost sarcastically as he is about to leave the room.

NICK FURY
Cute.

Remember what I said.

They're right in front of you.

Right under your nose.

Unless you're one of them, then you already knew that,

PAGE 17
1- Wide of the room, Maria sits there in shock. Mouth hanging open. In the dark.

2- Maria snaps out of it and dives for the intercom next to her laptop.

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
Code white!!
Repeat, code white.

3- Ext. S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier- night
Outside the Helicarrier, Nick Fury with James Bond jet pack is falling off the Helicarrier and right for us.
A gorgeous establishing shot of the S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier behind him.

Worm's-eye view looking up at the gorgeous night blue sky.

The giant silver S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier descends out of the clouds. Its bow takes up a mile. U.S. fighter planes flying off and around it in formation.

4- A couple of the jet fighters are circling. They see him. He is being chased.

PILOT
Helicarrier one, we have him. Over.

HELICARRIER
Keep visual. Over.

PILOT
Is that really him? Over.

5- Fury dives right for us. Back to the Helicarrier and heading towards Earth. A couple of agents are following him in similar contraption.

HELICARRIER
Recon two, agents Freda and Cornelius. Report. Over.

AGENT
We are in the air. In pursuit. Over.

AGENT
Should we open fire, over?

6- Over the other agents' heads, hair whipping in the wind. He disappears.

AGENT
Uh, we lost visual.

AGENT
He's cloaked.

PAGE 18
1- Int. S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier- day
Wide of the S.H.I.E.L.D. Mission room on high alert. a startled Maria Hill is storming in and putting on her shirt as she is being debriefed as they walk quickly through the room.
Two dozen young S.H.I.E.L.D. agents are running around on high alert. Everyone is taking battle stations. It's a huge glass and metal war room.

The high-tech walls are covered with tons of live video screens monitoring just about everything on the planet. Digital world maps are mapping out the complex global political situation.

The screens show a bombardment of information about the Marvel Universe. It shows how wide in scope S.H.I.E.L.D.'s p.o.v. Is. This is the big picture flying by at a blinding speed.

But all the drama has shifted to aerial images of Nick Fury. Everything is about the situation...photos, digital maps, file pictures and downloads of Fury on some of the screens...

This is a very sterile, cold environment.

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
What?

AGENT
We lost visual.

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
Are you #@#$%ing kidding me?

AGENT
He's not showing up on infra red or...

2- Maria leans on the console and barks up at the screens. The agents around her hop to.

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
Are you kidding me? How is he doing that??

AGENT
He has the cloaking devise in his watch. Standard issue.

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
Standard issue??

AGENT
For level nine and up.

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
I don't have one.

AGENT
You have to put in a request.

3- Maria thinks. One of the agents leans in and asks her. This is an amazing night.

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
Then it's not standard issue, is it?

AGENT
We can estimate his departure trajectory but he knows that and probably changed course upon cloaking.

AGENT
He was in your room?

DIRECTOR MARIA HILL
To be fair it used to be his.

AGENT
Did he take anything?

4- Maria thinks. About everything that just happened and everything he just said. The chaos continues around her.

5- Over Maria's head, the photo file of Nick Fury stares down on her from one of the monitor screens over her head. Looking right at her.

PAGE 19
1- Ext. San Francisco- day
Big splash of Spider-Woman flying through the caverns of a bright and sunny day San Francisco.

Spider-Woman is back. The city glows like a magical fairy tale land. The air crackles. Her wings wide.

Reads: TWO MONTHS LATER

1- Ext. Rooftop- day
Mid wide, Spider-Woman on a dusty dirty rooftop, in profile, full figure. Spider-Woman pulls off her mask as she contemplates her life. Lost in thought. Behind her the city glows.

NICK FURY
Jessica Drew.

SPIDER-WOMAN
Wow!

Are you @#$%ing me?

3- From behind Spider-Woman looking at the rooftop entrance of the roof she is standing on. Nick Fury is standing there hands in his long stylish coat. Walls of buildings box in the background.
NICK FURY
You look good, healthy.

SPIDER-WOMAN
I thought you left me hanging out to dry.

NICK FURY
So you're-

SPIDER-WOMAN
You set me up as a double agent reporting to both S.H.I.E.L.D. and Hydra and then you @#$%ed me over because of your stupid secret war.

NICK FURY
So you're angry.

4- From behind Nick, Spider-Woman, maskless approaches, pointing right at him.

SPIDER-WOMAN
They came to me.

Just like you said. S.H.I.E.L.D. said give you up or they'll put me in prison. Threatened me right to my face, I said, go ahead. The guy bailed on me just like he bailed on you guys.

5- Nick shrugs and looks Spider-Woman in the eyes.

NICK FURY
Are you done?

SPIDER-WOMAN
I trusted you. Completely.

NICK FURY
And I ain't never lied to ya.

SPIDER-WOMAN
S.H.I.E.L.D. told me to go @#$% myself. So you know what that makes me.

A secret agent of Hydra with no way out of it. Thanks to you.

6- Nick knows this is asking a lot. It's almost funny how outlandish it is.

NICK FURY
I need you to go back to S.H.I.E.L.D. And grovel for a reinstatement.

7- Spider-Woman laughs at it, she can't help it.

SPIDER-WOMAN
What?

PAGE 20
1- Over Spider-Woman's shoulder, her hair whipping in the way of our view of very serious Fury.

NICK FURY
They'll take you back now. It'll be a demotion. Nothing glamorous.

But they need men. They certainly need someone of your skill set.

The whole anti-me thing is settlin' down. They have a business to run.

2- Spider-Woman is amazed he isn't joking.

SPIDER-WOMAN
What would I do that for?

3- Same as 1, but tighter.

NICK FURY
Well, based on my recon of ya the last couple of days, you need the work.

Secondly, I need your eyes in there.

4- Spider-Woman sneers at the invasion of privacy.

SPIDER-WOMAN
Spying on me now? Great.

And- hey- What do you want me there for? What am I looking for?

And wait, You don't work for anyone. So why are you asking me to do this?

5- Same as 3, but tighter.

NICK FURY
For mankind.

6- Spider-Woman sneers at the vagueness.

SPIDER-WOMAN
What am I looking for?

7- Same as 5, but tighter.

NICK FURY
Something... off.

8- Spider-Woman growls right at him.

SPIDER-WOMAN
Wow!

You'll have to do a whole lot better than that at this point in our relationship.

9- Same as 7, but tighter.

NICK FURY
You know what a Skrull is?

PAGE 21
1- Profile, two shot. Thin long panel. Spider-Woman's curiosity is piqued. They are in each other's space. Talking quietly.

SPIDER-WOMAN
An alien?

NICK FURY
You ever seen one?

SPIDER-WOMAN
No.

NICK FURY
Thing is you wouldn't know it if you did. They can change shape. They can live among us.

SPIDER-WOMAN
And they're- you think they got into S.H.I.E.L.D.?

NICK FURY
Maybe.

SPIDER-WOMAN
How do we find out?

NICK FURY
Carefully.

SPIDER-WOMAN
Now you got me really creeped. How do I know you're not one?

NICK FURY
You don't. And I really don't know you're not...

2- Over Nick's shoulder Jessica pinches her nose at the intrusion into her life.

NICK FURY
Except that I've been watching you for three days.

SPIDER-WOMAN
I thought it was two.

NICK FURY
It's been a week.

SPIDER-WOMAN
That really creeps me out even more than the other thing.

3- Nick just waits for her to commit to him.

NICK FURY
Hey, what can I tell you. It's the times we live in.

You in?

4- Same as 2, but Jessica rolls her eyes at this even more insane predicament.

SPIDER-WOMAN
So now I'll be a triple agent.

Hydra, S.H.I.E.L.D., and I'm reporting back to you, who works for no one.

5- Spider-Woman squints at him. Nick shrugs, he just wants her to commit.

NICK FURY
Mankind.

SPIDER-WOMAN
Oh yeah, that's right.

NICK FURY
I know this is crappy. I know you've been in
limbo. It is what it is.

SPIDER-WOMAN
Was that as close to an apology as I'm going to get out of you?

NICK FURY
You in?

6- Spider-Woman deflates. Of course she is in.

SPIDER-WOMAN
What are you going to do?

7- Int. Basement- night
Same shot of Spider-Woman. But its not her. It's a copied picture of her,

NICK FURY NARRATION
I'll tell you exactly what I'm going to do...

8- Same but wider, Spider-Woman's picture is one of four or five. It's part of what we see, a handful of pictures of the heroes of the Marvel Universe tacked up on a wall.
Spider-Woman is next to Speedball, Captain America, Falcon, Mr. Fantastic, The Sentry. Just hints of the others.

NICK FURY NARRATION
I'm going to figure this out.

I'm going to put all the pieces together.

PAGE 22-23
Double-page spread
Alex- You're going to curse my name, but this was a pretty easy issue up until now.
The entire spread, bleeding out in every direction. This entire wall of this dark, dank basement hideaway is covered with dozens and hundreds of Poloroid snapshots cut outs of portraits of the icons of the Marvel Universe.

Nick Fury is making a plan. Systematically trying to figure out the Skrull initiative. Everyone he has anyociation with is up on this wall.

Nick is on the bottom right of the spread. He is working on a laptop. He is working on something, boxes of evidence and clues and research to do. He is diligent. Consumed with his task as the greatest spy on earth, trying to figure out who his enemy is.

What we will reveal next issue is that this is the list of suspects. Not his plan.

He is not looking at the wall he has made that features Ms. Marvel, Iron Man, Wonder Man, Wasp, Black Widow, Sentry, Ares, Luke Cage, Iron Fist, Dr. Strange, Spider-Man, Spider-Woman, Wolverine, Echo, Ronin, Hawkeye, Hulkling, Patriot, Stature, Speed, Vision, Wiccan, Century, Cybermancer, Moonraker, Scarlet Witch, Spider-Woman (Julia Carpenter), U.S.Agent, Darkhawk, Human Torch, Living Lightning, Machine Man, Mantis, Mockingbird, Moon Knight, Henry Pym, Quicksilver, Thing, Tigra, U.S. Agent, War Machine, Hercules, Angel, Iceman, Ghost Rider, Darkstar, The Hulk, Namor, Silver Surfer, Nighthawk, Valkyrie, Hellcat, Clea, Hellstorm, Moondragon, Gargoyle, Andromeda, Doctor Doom, Captain Britain, Dazzler, Nocturne, Sage, Pete Wisdom, Nightcrawler, Phoenix (Rachel Summers), Shadowcat, Lockheed, Widget, Feron, Kylun, Colossus, Black Knight, Warlock, Wolfsbane, Psylocke, Juggernaut, Mister Fantastic, Invisible Woman, Sebastian Shaw, Emma Frost, Phoenix, Sage, Shinobi, Shaw, Donald Pierce, Magneto, Storm, Harry Leland, Trevor Fitzroy, Madelyne Pryor, Selene, Blob, Cyclops, Detonator, Forge, Juggernaut, Longshot, Mastermind, Multiple Man, Mystique, Rogue, Sabretooth, Toad, Unus the Untouchable, Venom, Black Bolt, Medusa, Karnak, Gorgon, Triton, Crystal, Lockjaw, Maximus the Mad, Daredevil, Black Widow 2, Dagger, Punisher, Shang-Chi, Arachne, Weapon Alpha, Sasquatch, Talisman, Cannonball Danielle Moonstar, Karma, Sunspot, Magik, Magma, Cypher, Doctor Octopus, Shocker, Lizard, Electro, Kraven the Hunter, Mysterio, Sandman, Vulture, Hobgoblin, Hydro-Man, Aurora, Chamber, Copycat, Deadpool, Garrison Kane/Weapon X, Mastodon, Maverick/Agent Zero, Marrow, Sabretooth, Sauron, Silver Fox, Wildchild, X-23.

And many, many others. Some are circled in red, some are circled in blue. There are little notes scribbled on some of them. Every idea and motivation he can think of he has jotted down.

This spread is about Fury's loneliness as much as it is about his tactical genius.

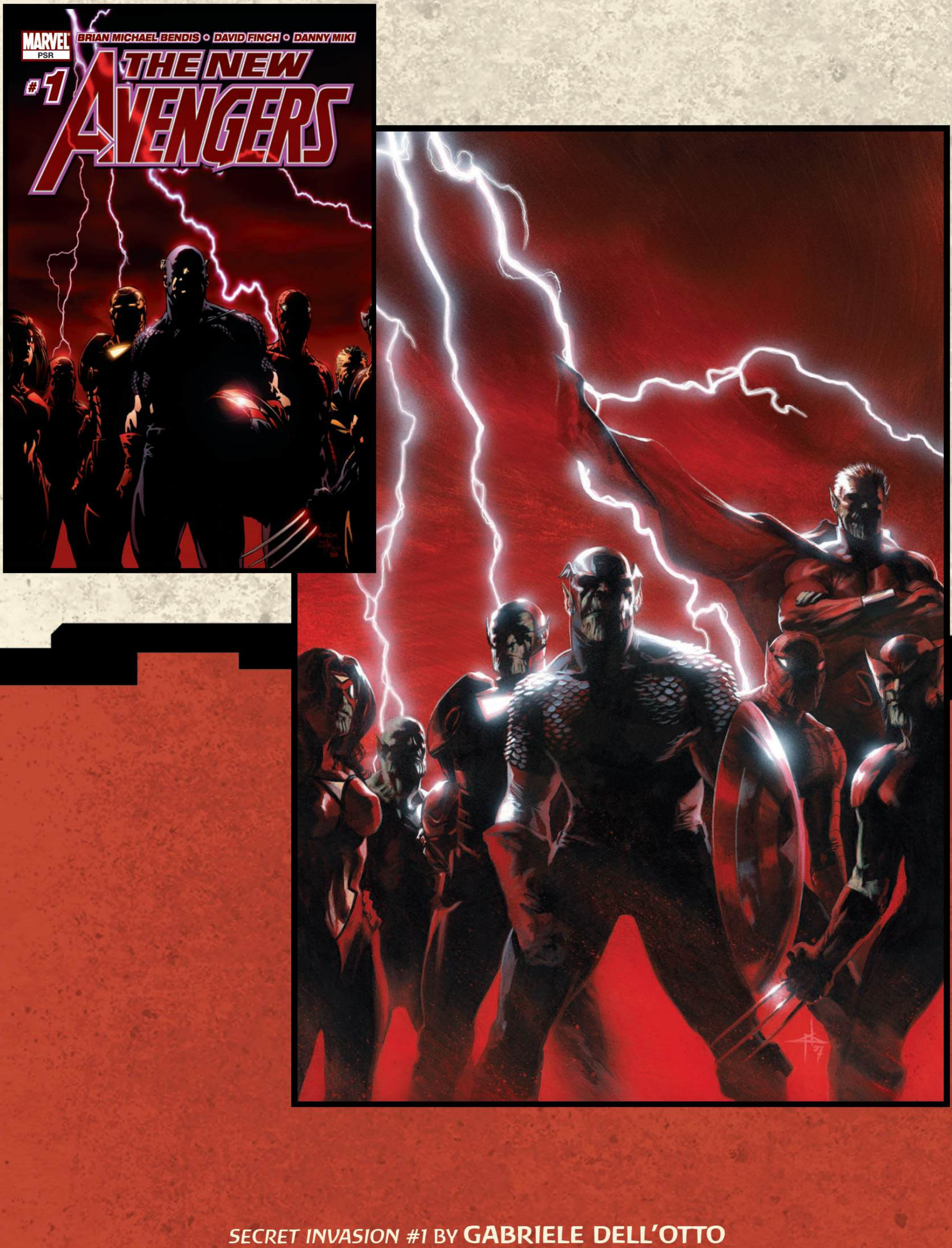
NICK FURY NARRATION
And when they show their hand...

I'm going to be ready.

To be continued...

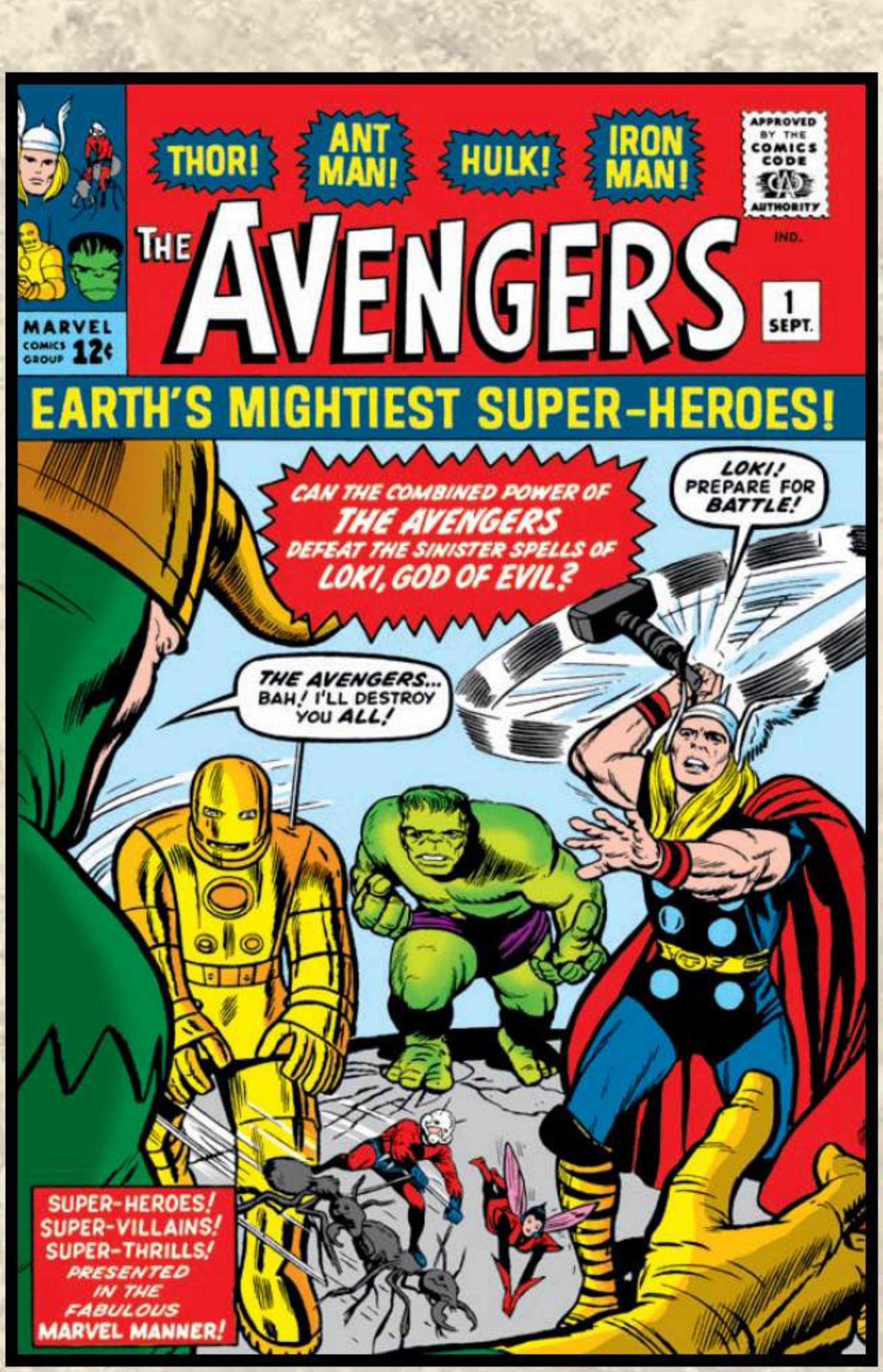
HOMAGE COVER GALLERY

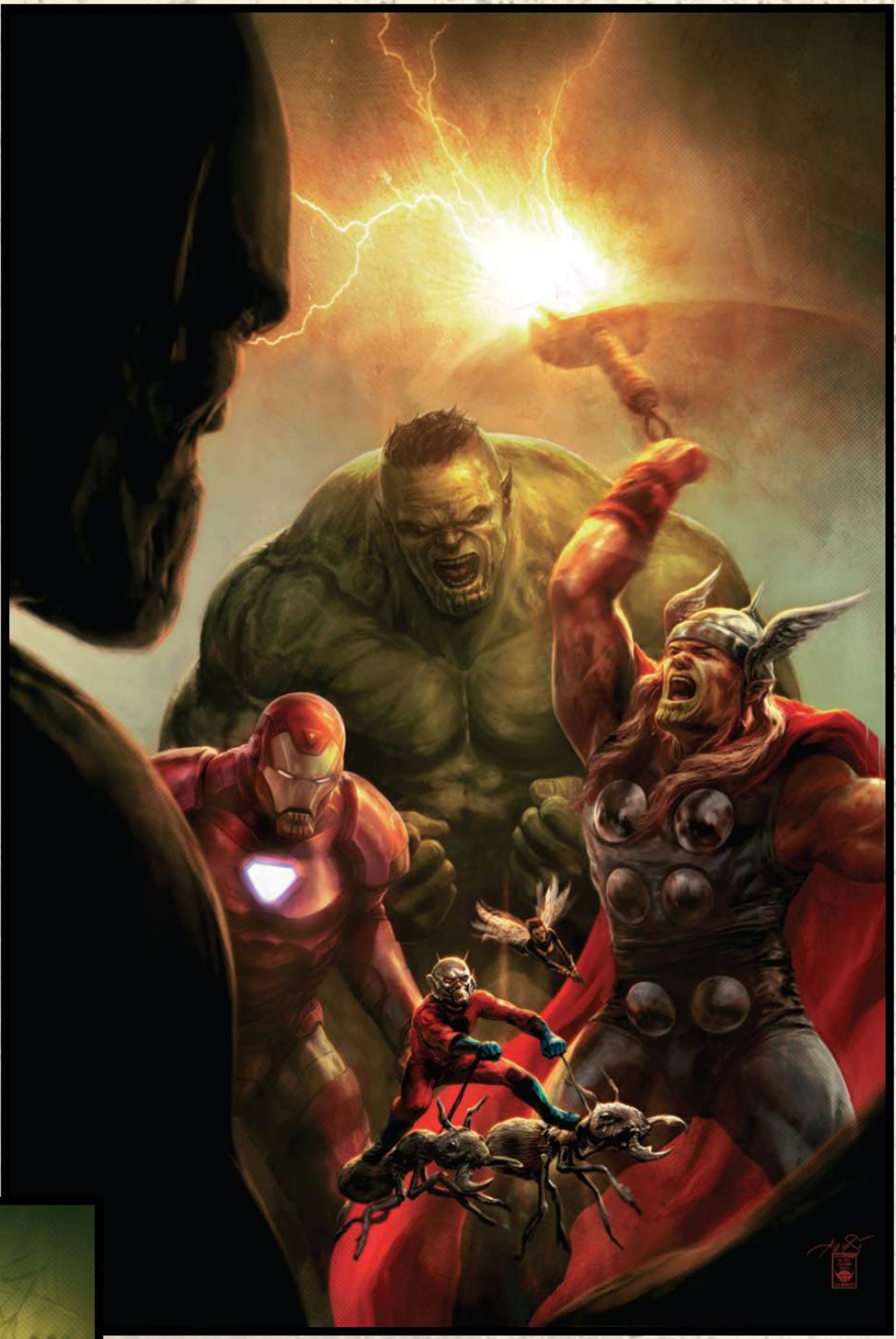
SECRET INVASION #1, NEW AVENGERS #40-47
AND *MIGHTY AVENGERS #12-19* ALL FEATURED PAINTED COVERS
THAT WERE "SKRULLIFIED" VERSIONS OF CLASSIC MARVEL COVERS.

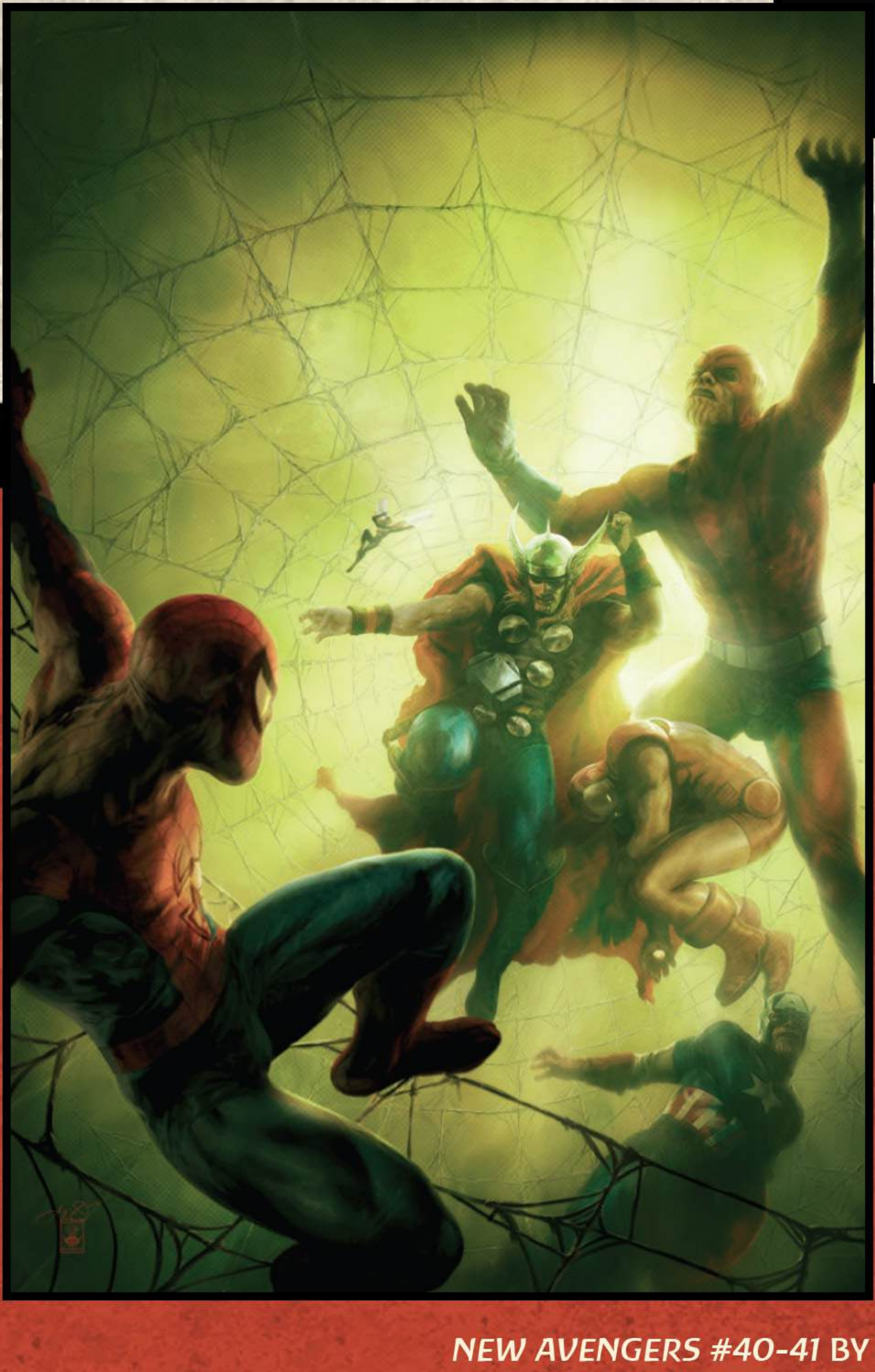

MARVEL
PSR
BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS • DAVID FINCH • DANNY MIKI
#1
THE NEW AVENGERS

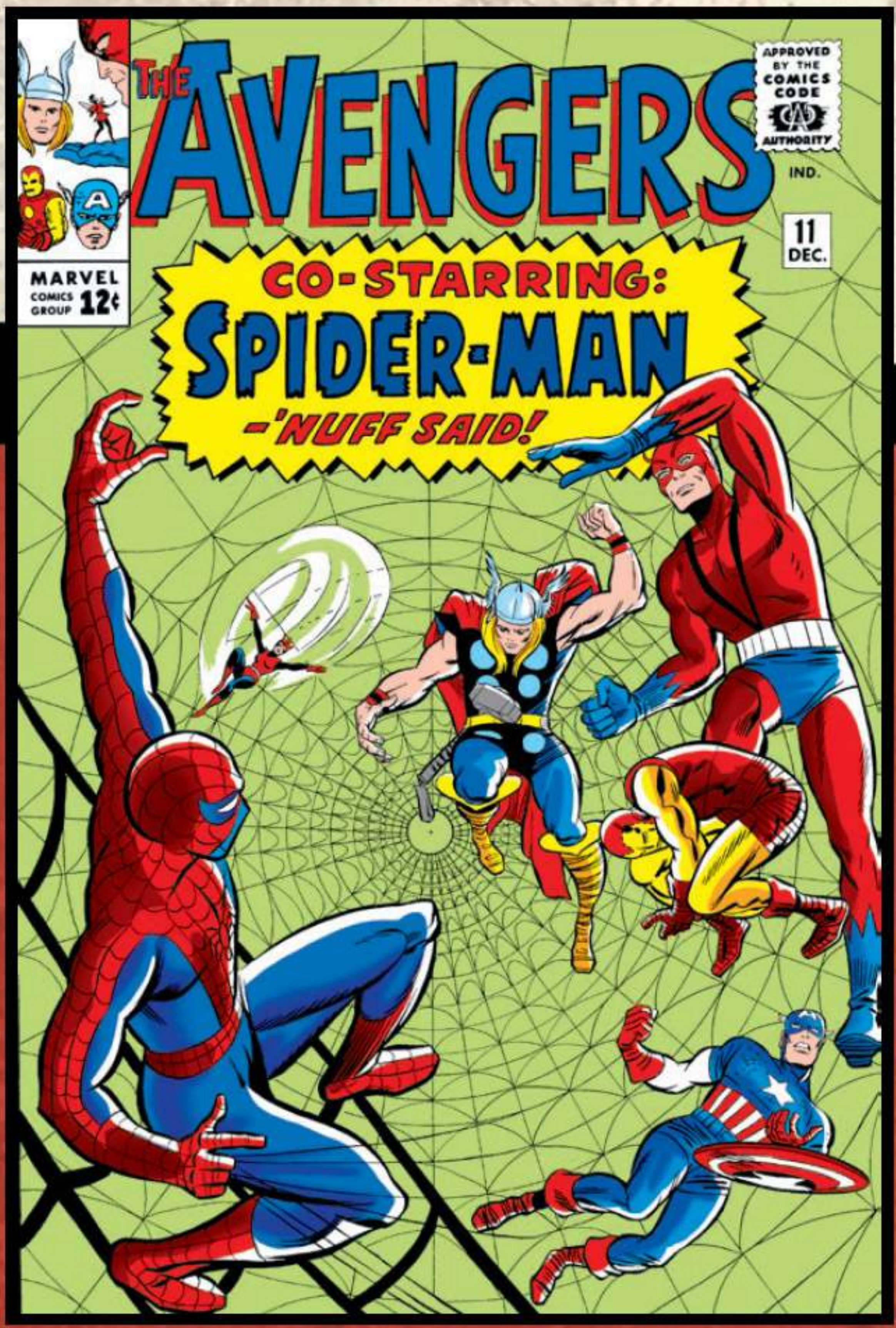
SECRET INVASION #1 BY **GABRIELE DELL'OTTO**

DONE IN HOMAGE TO *NEW AVENGERS (2004) #1*
BY DAVID FINCH, DANNY MIKI & FRANK D'ARMATA

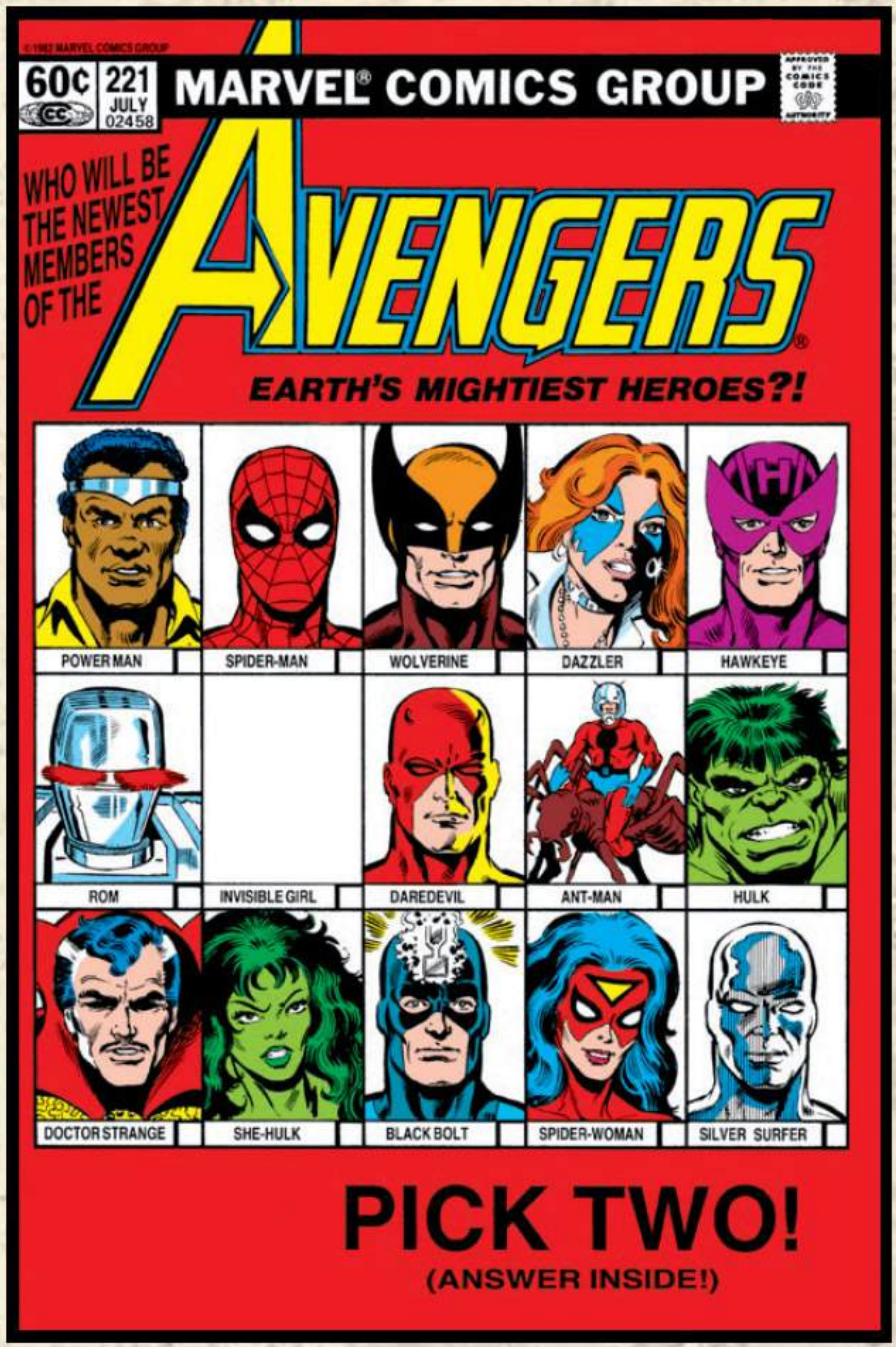

THOR!
ANT MAN!
HULK!
IRON MAN!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE AVENGERS
IND.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
1 SEPT.
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST SUPER-HEROES!
CAN THE COMBINED POWER OF THE AVENGERS DEFEAT THE SINISTER SPELLS OF LOKI, GOD OF EVIL?
LOKI!! PREPARE FOR BATTLE!
THE AVENGERS... BAH! I'LL DESTROY YOU ALL!
SUPER-HEROES! SUPER-VILLAINS! SUPER-THRILLS! PRESENTED IN THE FABULOUS MARVEL MANNER!

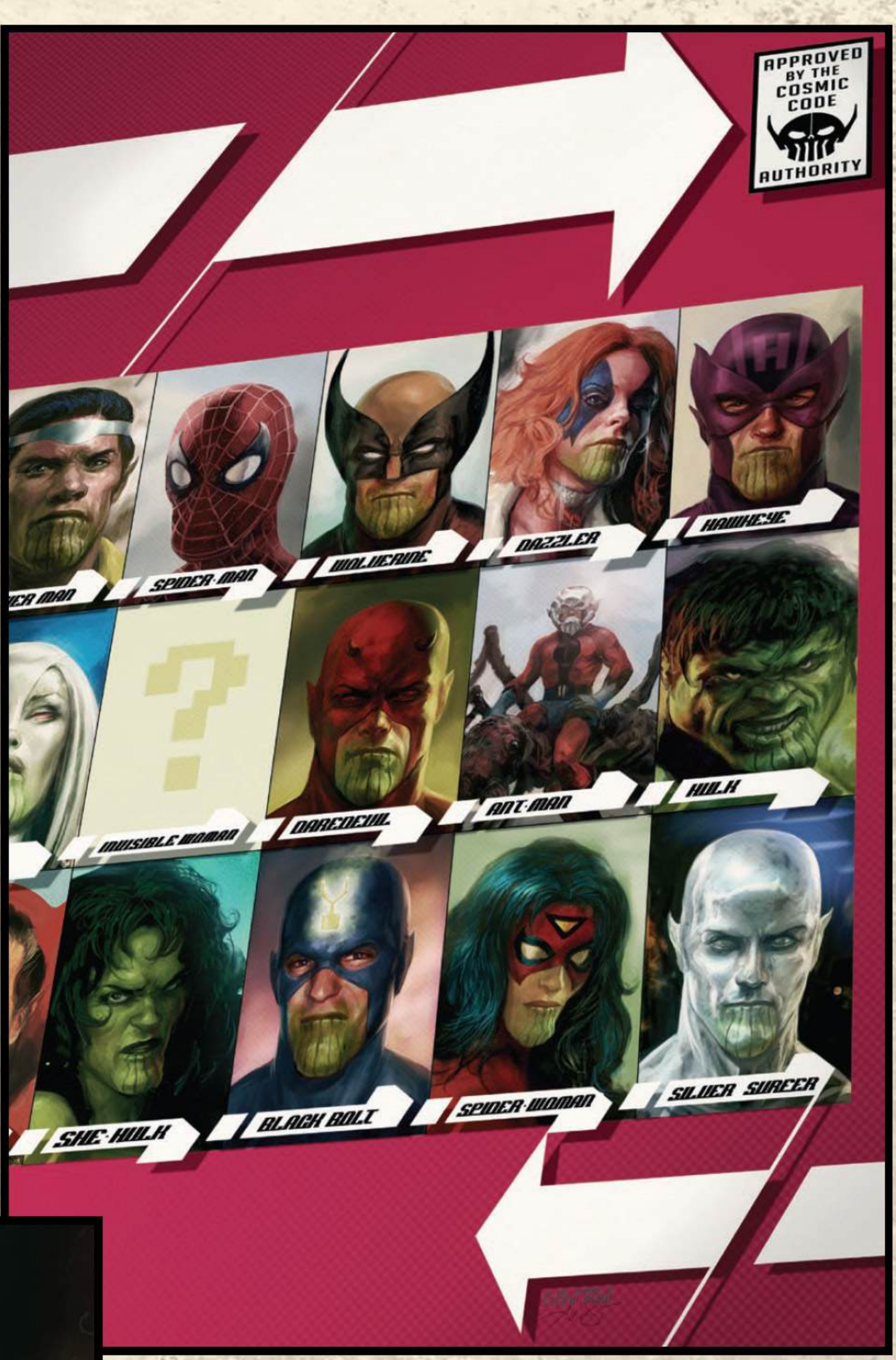


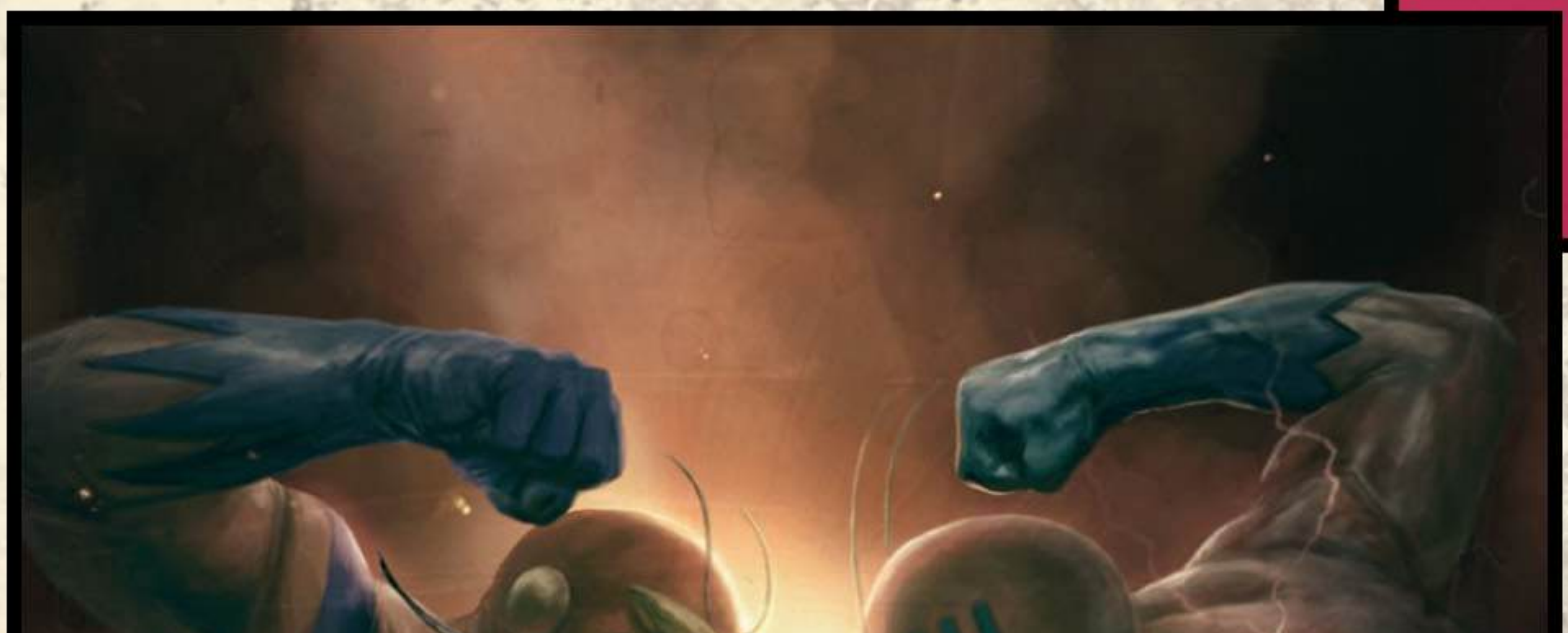


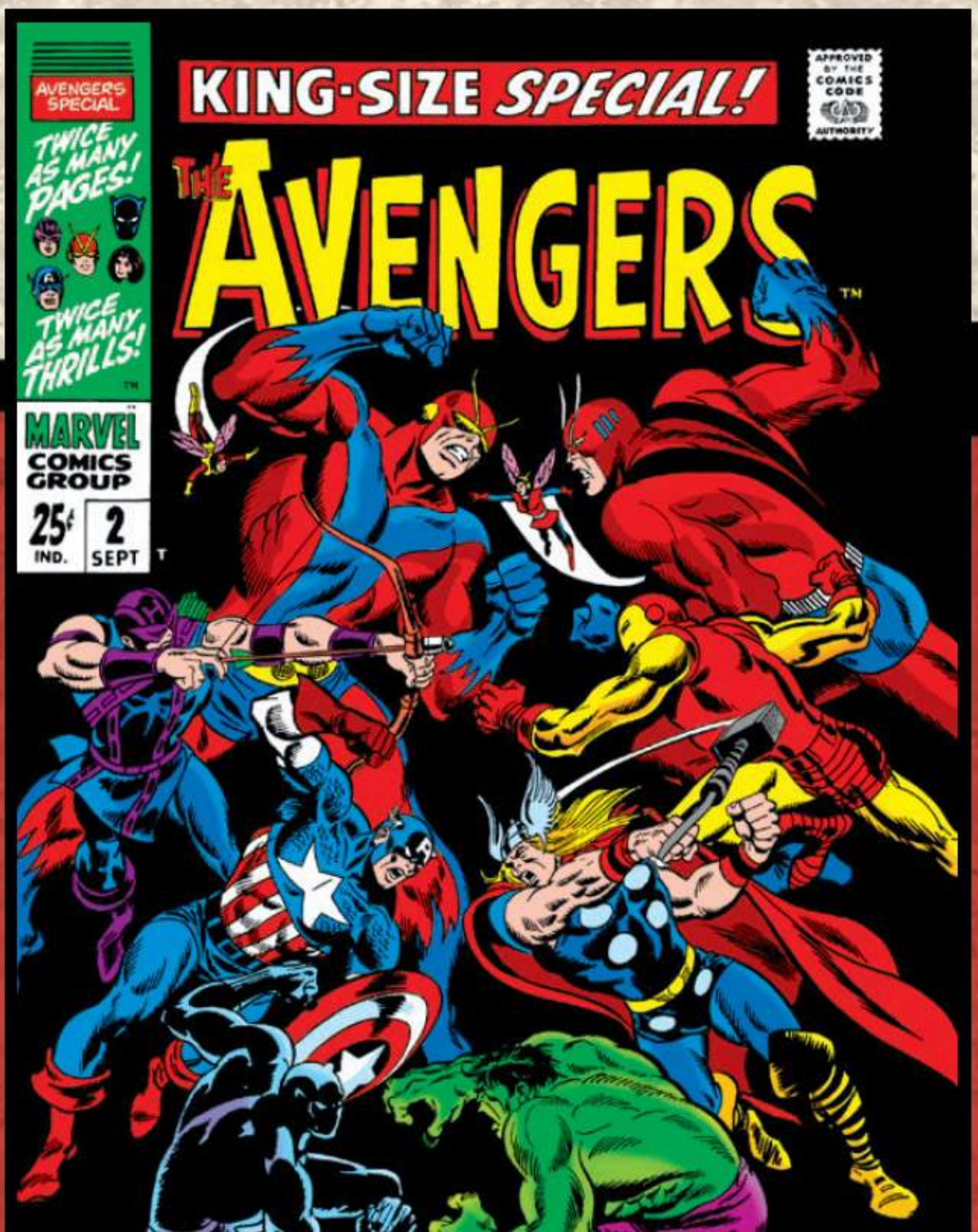

THE AVENGERS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
IND.
11 DEC.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
CO-STARRING: SPIDER-MAN
-'NUFF SAID!

NEW AVENGERS #40-41 BY **ALEKSI BRICLOT**
DONE IN HOMAGE TO *AVENGERS (1963) #1* AND *#11* BY JACK KIRBY


60¢ 221 JULY 02458
MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
WHO WILL BE THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE
AVENGERS®
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES?!
POWER MAN
SPIDER-MAN
WOLVERINE
DAZZLER
HAWKEYE
ROM
INVISIBLE GIRL
DAREDEVIL
ANT-MAN
HULK
DOCTOR STRANGE
SHE-HULK
BLACK BOLT
SPIDER-WOMAN
SILVER SURFER
PICK TWO!
(ANSWER INSIDE!)


APPROVED BY THE COSMIC CODE AUTHORITY
SPIDER-MAN
WOLVERINE
DAZZLER
HAWKEYE
INVISIBLE WOMAN
DAREDEVIL
ANT-MAN
HULK
SHE-HULK
BLACK BOLT
SPIDER-WOMAN
SILVER SURFER




AVENGERS SPECIAL
KING-SIZE SPECIAL!
THE AVENGERS
TWICE AS MANY PAGES!
TWICE AS MANY THRILLS!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
25¢ IND. 2 SEPT
THE NEW AVENGERS VS. THE OLD AVENGERS!

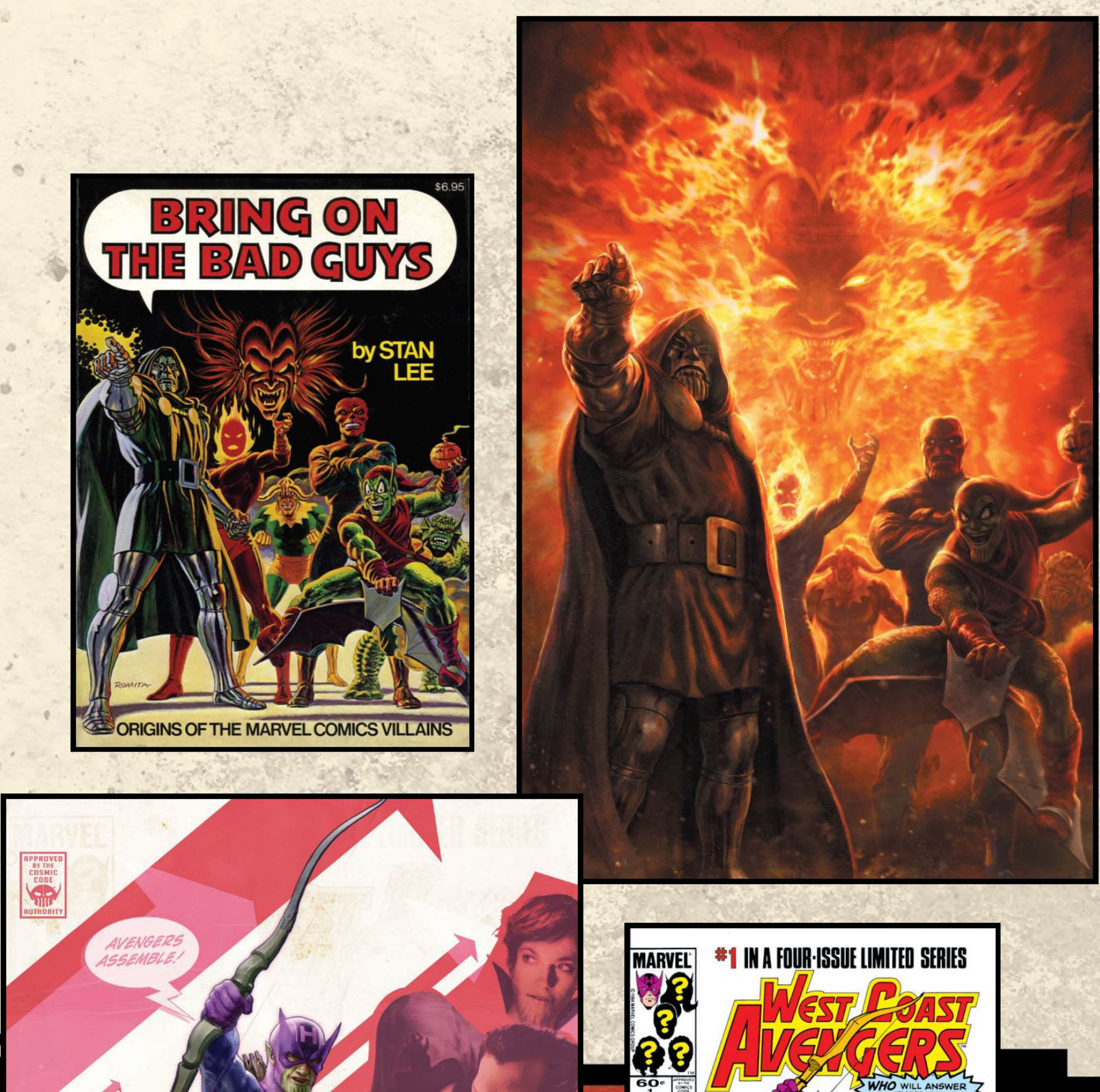
NEW AVENGERS #42-43 BY **ALEKSI BRICLOT**

DONE IN HOMAGE TO *AVENGERS (1963) #221* BY ED HANNIGAN
AND *AVENGERS ANNUAL (1967) #2* BY JOHN BUSCEMA

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

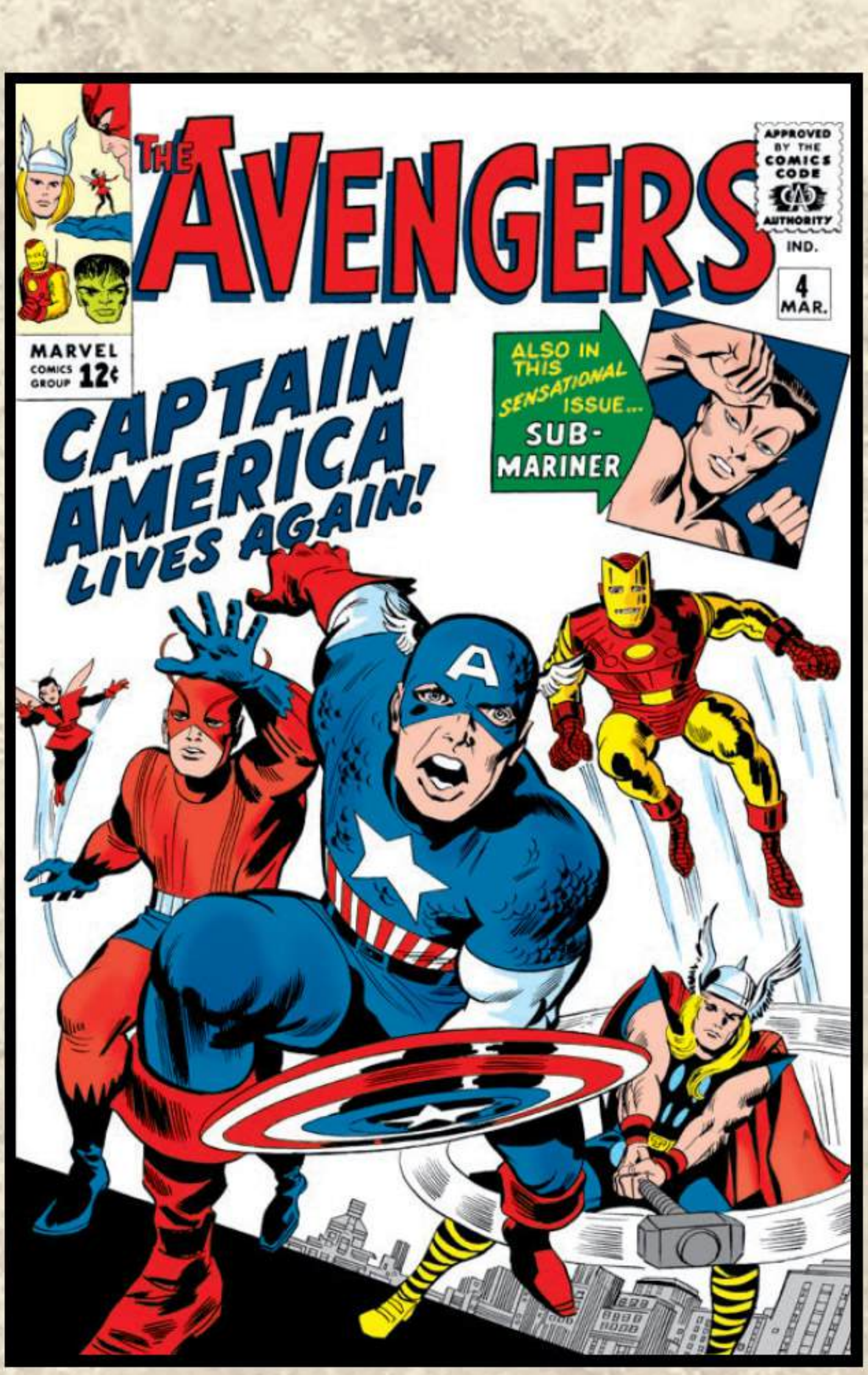
NEW AVENGERS #44-45 BY **ALEKSI BRICLOT**

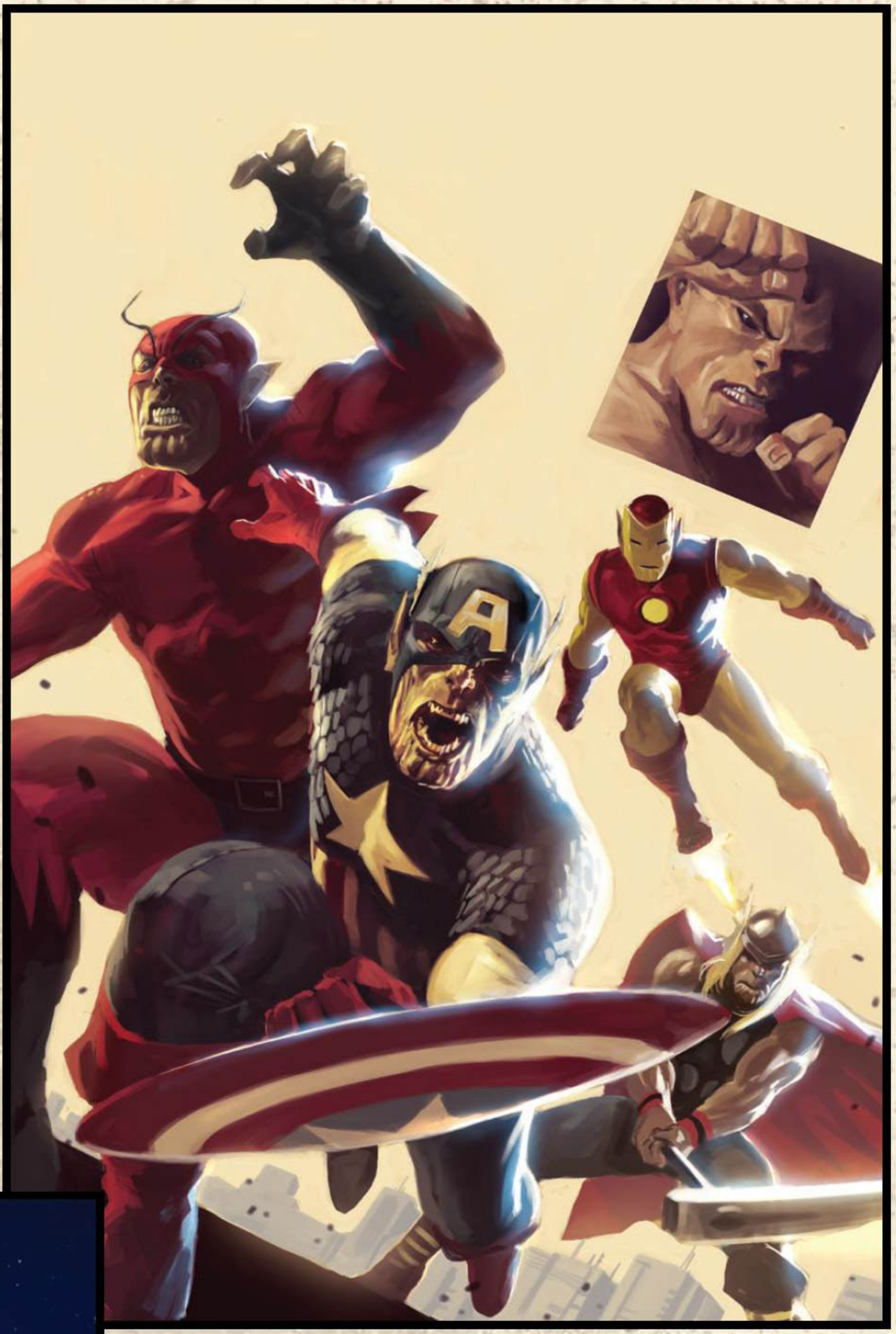
DONE IN HOMAGE TO *NEW AVENGERS: ILLUMINATI #1* BY JIM CHEUNG, MARK MORALES & JUSTIN PONSOR AND *HOUSE OF M (2005) #1* BY ESAD RIBIĆ

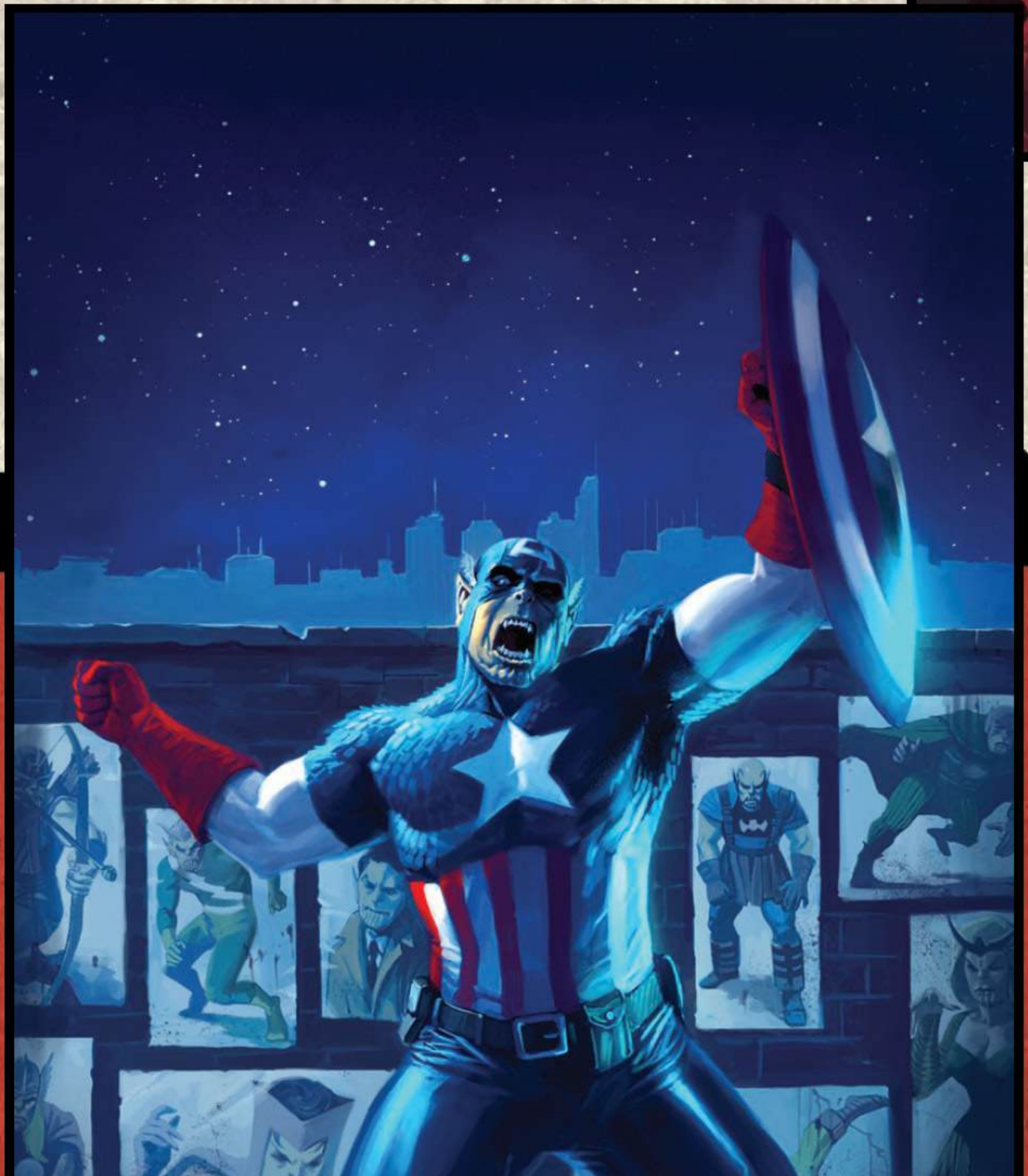

$6.95
BRING ON THE BAD GUYS
by STAN LEE
ROMITA
ORIGINS OF THE MARVEL COMICS VILLAINS
APPROVED BY THE COSMIC CODE AUTHORITY
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
MARVEL
#1 IN A FOUR-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
WEST COAST AVENGERS
60¢ 1 SEPT
WHO WILL ANSWER HAWKEYE'S CALL TO JOIN THE NEW TEAM?
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
HALL & BREEDING

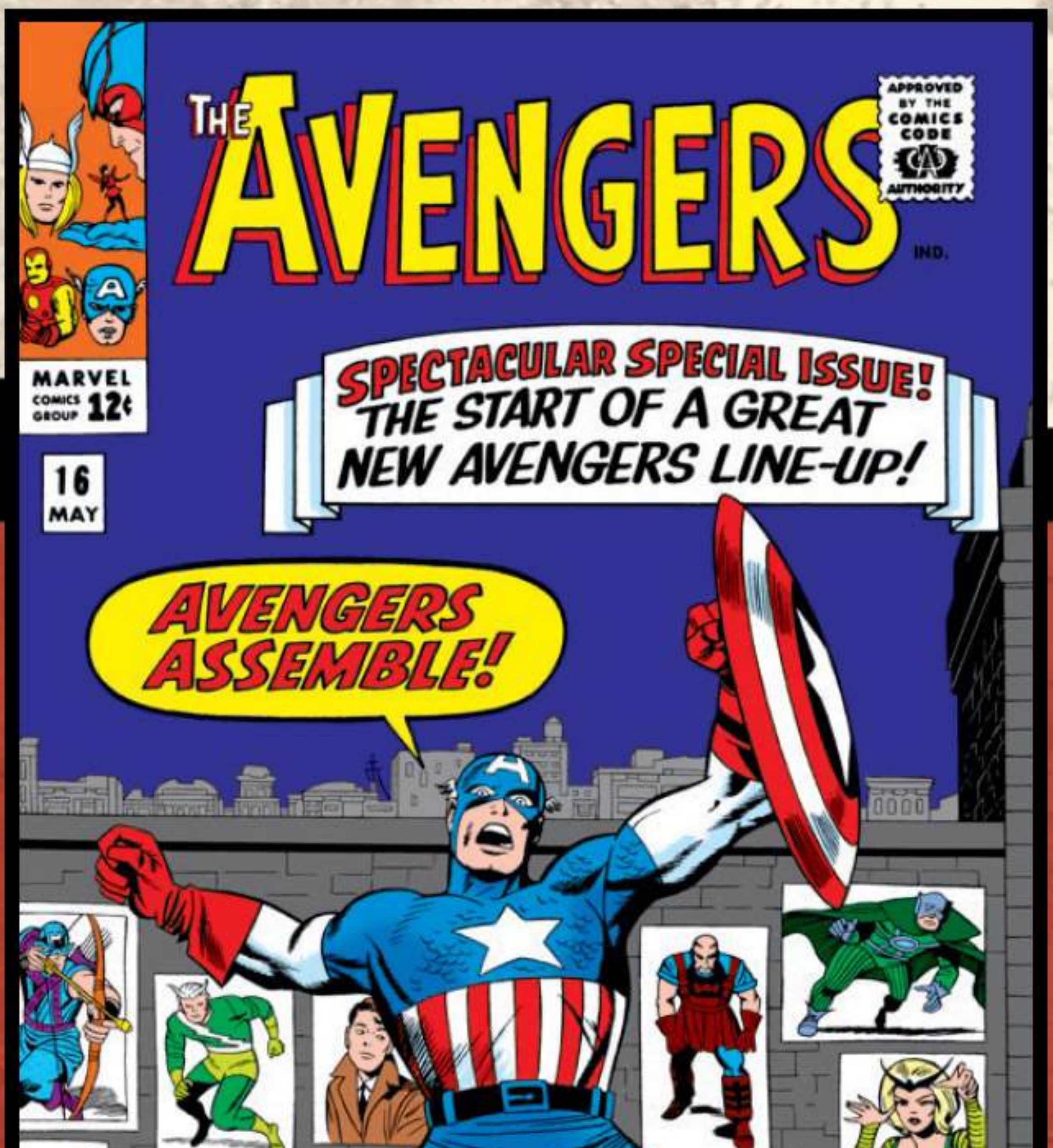
NEW AVENGERS #46-47 BY **ALEKSI BRICLOT**

DONE IN HOMAGE TO *BRING ON THE BAD GUYS TPB* BY JOHN ROMITA SR.
AND *WEST COAST AVENGERS (1984) #1* BY BOB HALL & BRETT BREEDING

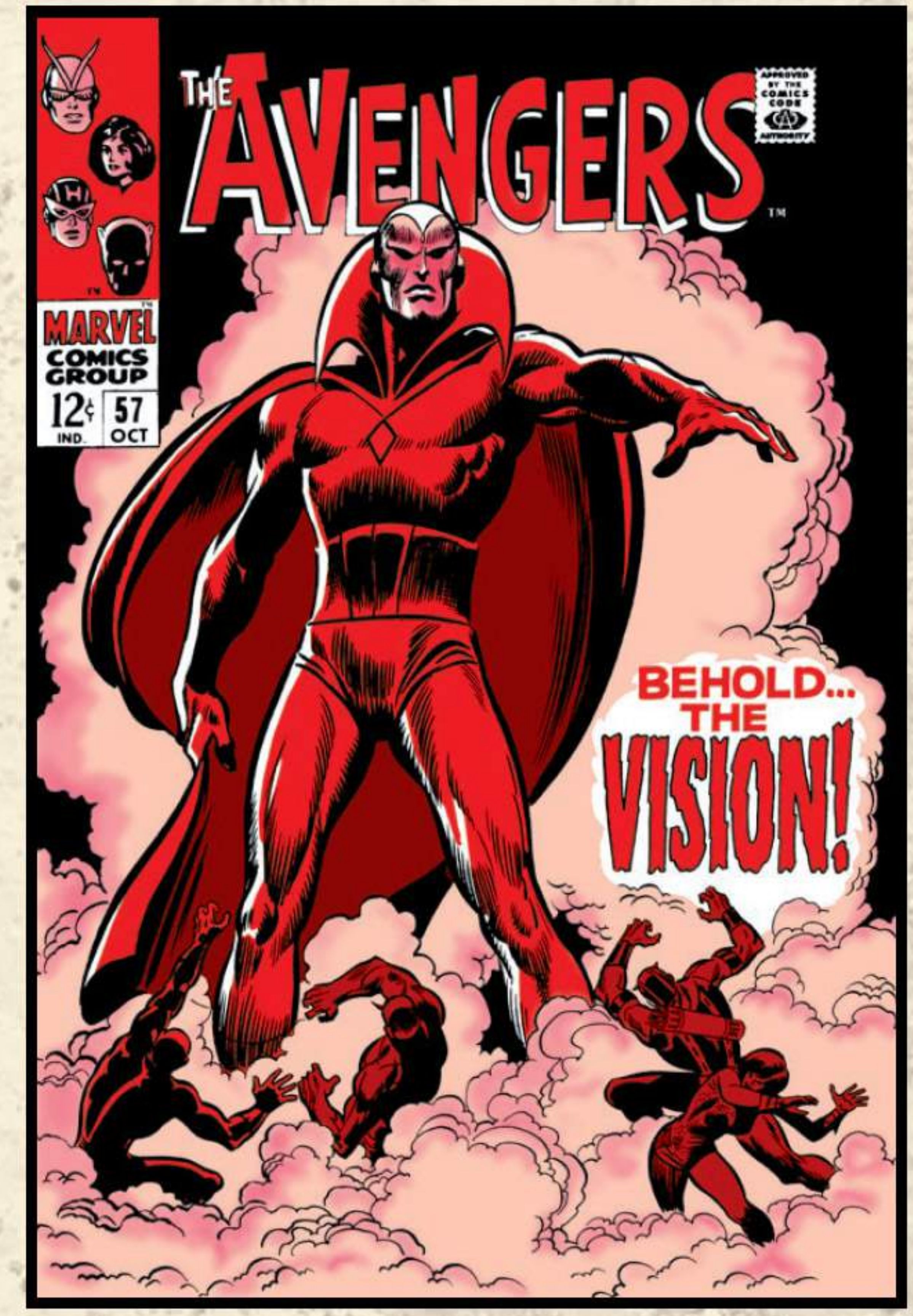

THE AVENGERS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
IND.
4 MAR.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
CAPTAIN AMERICA LIVES AGAIN!
ALSO IN THIS SENSATIONAL ISSUE... SUB-MARINER

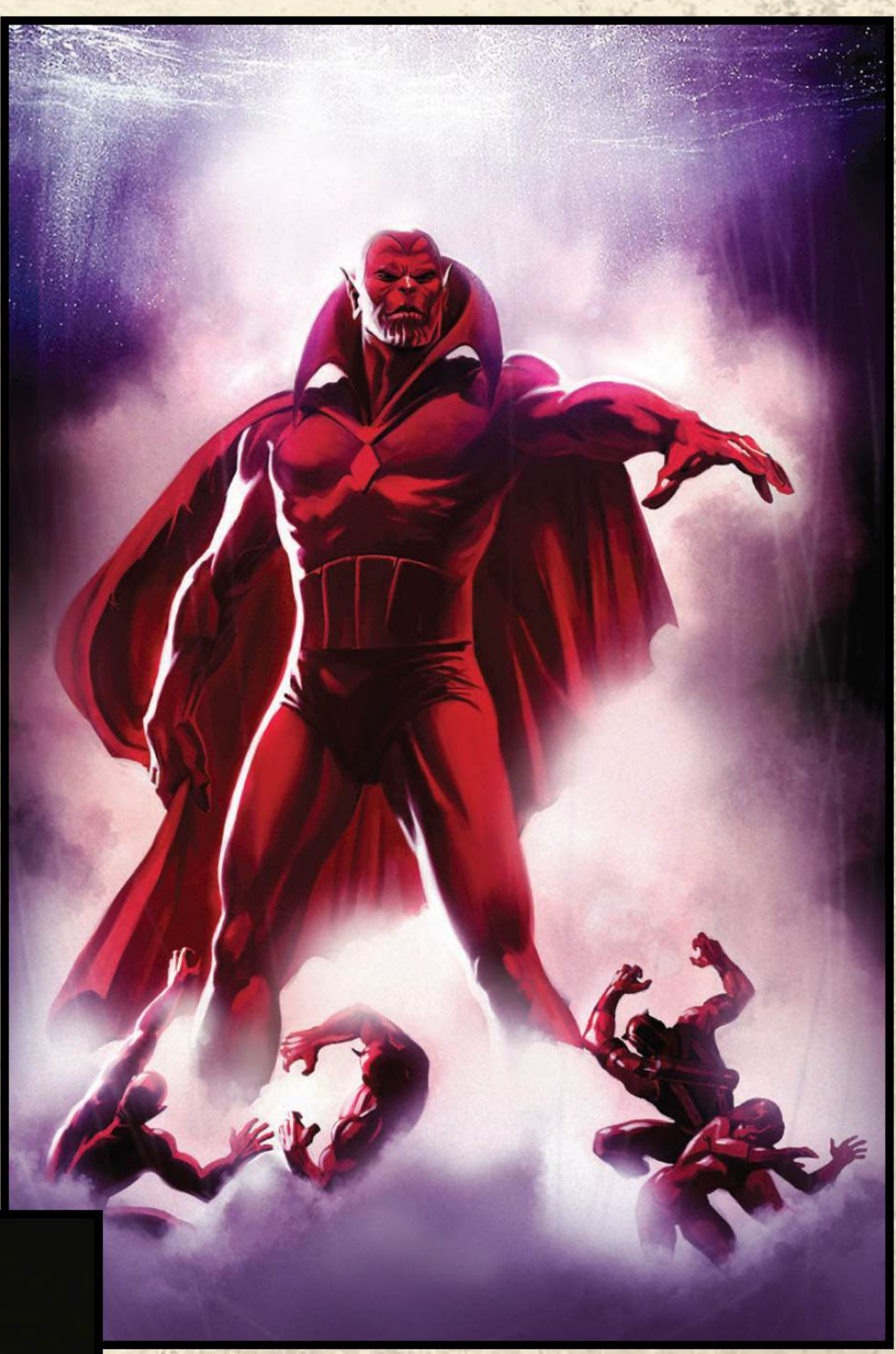


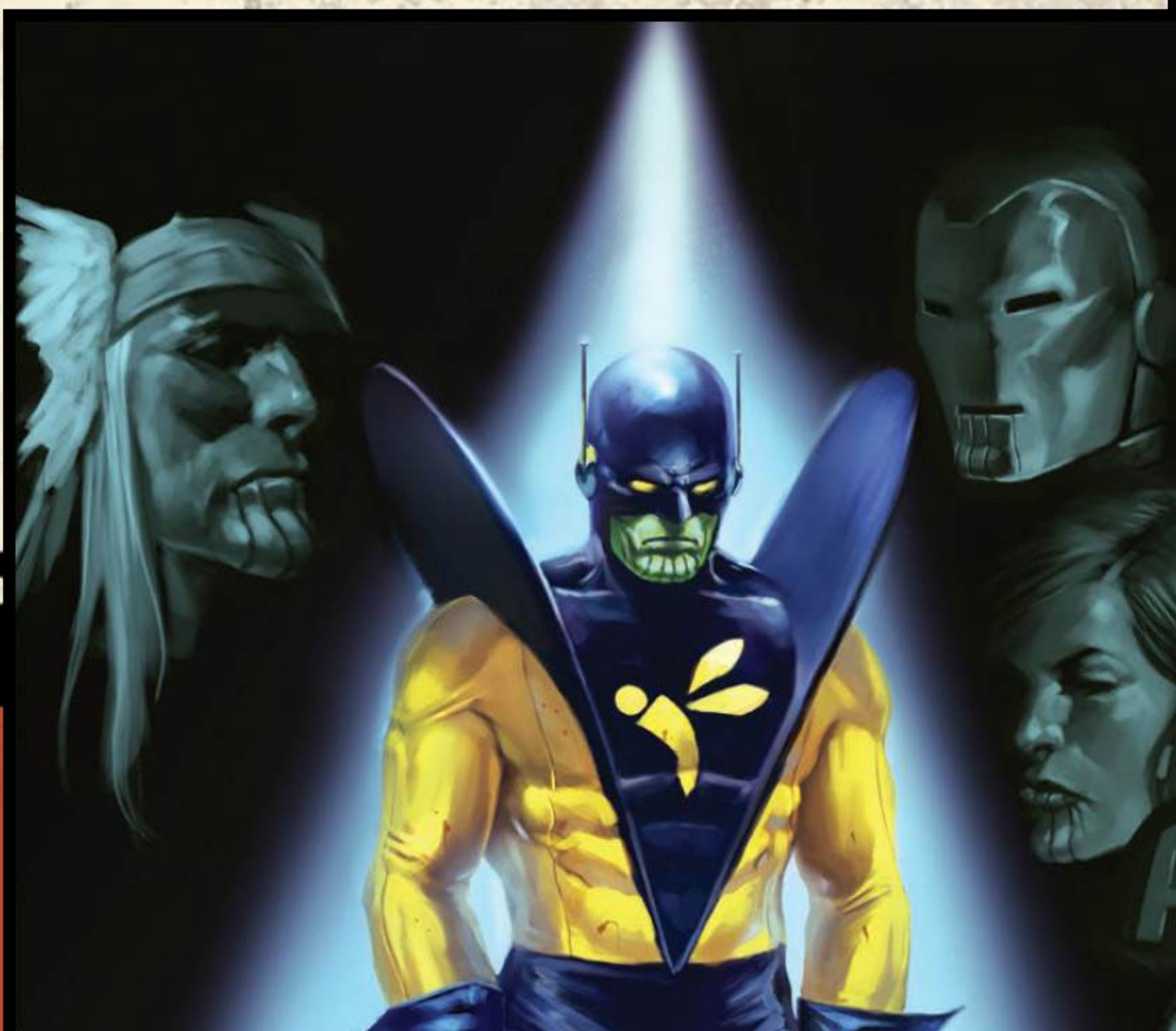


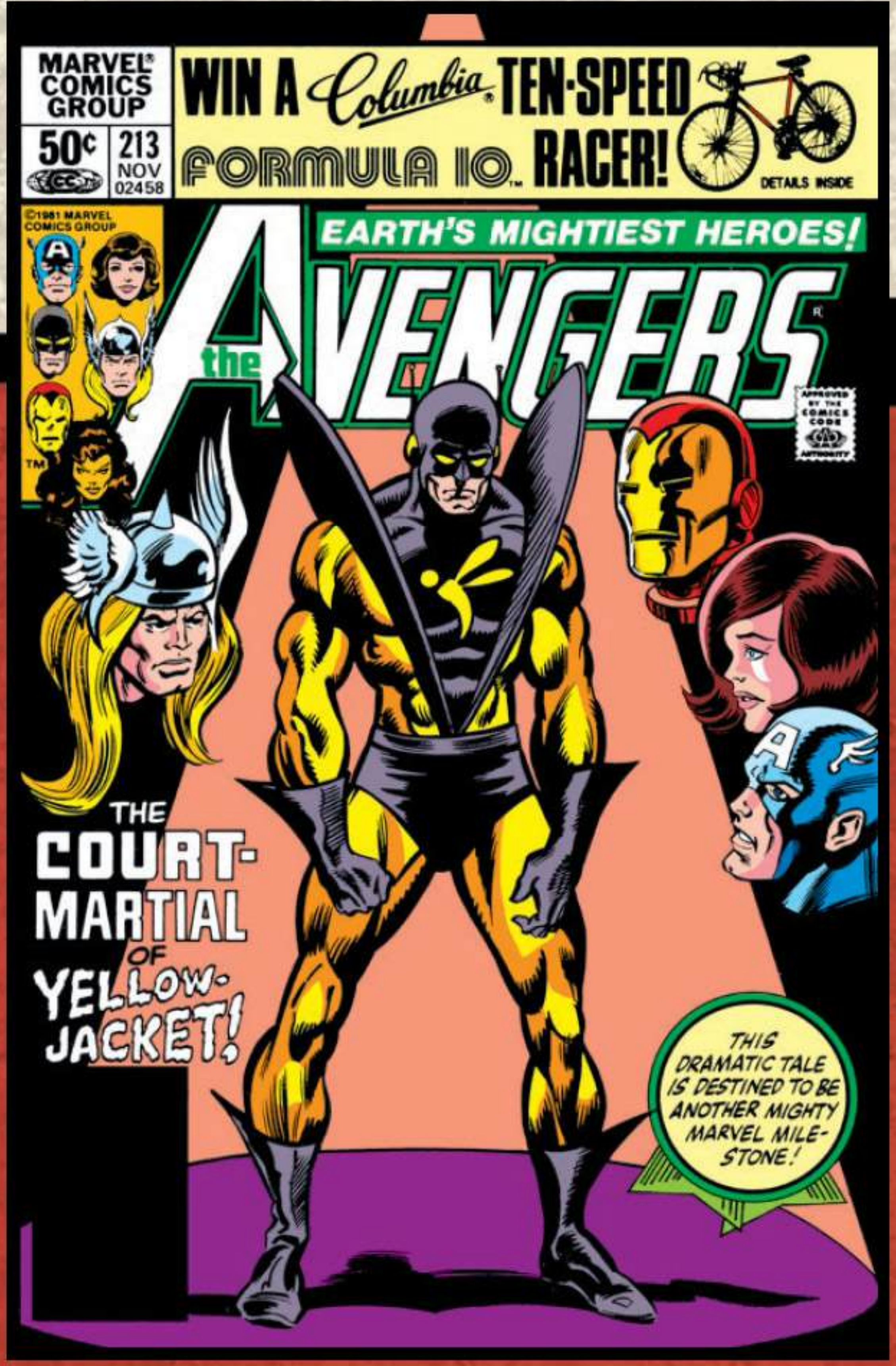

THE AVENGERS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
IND.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
16 MAY
SPECTACULAR SPECIAL ISSUE! THE START OF A GREAT NEW AVENGERS LINE-UP!
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

MIGHTY AVENGERS #12-13 BY **MARKO DJURDJEVIĆ**
DONE IN HOMAGE TO *AVENGERS (1963)* #4 AND #16 BY JACK KIRBY


THE AVENGERS
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ 57 OCT
IND.
BEHOLD... THE VISION!

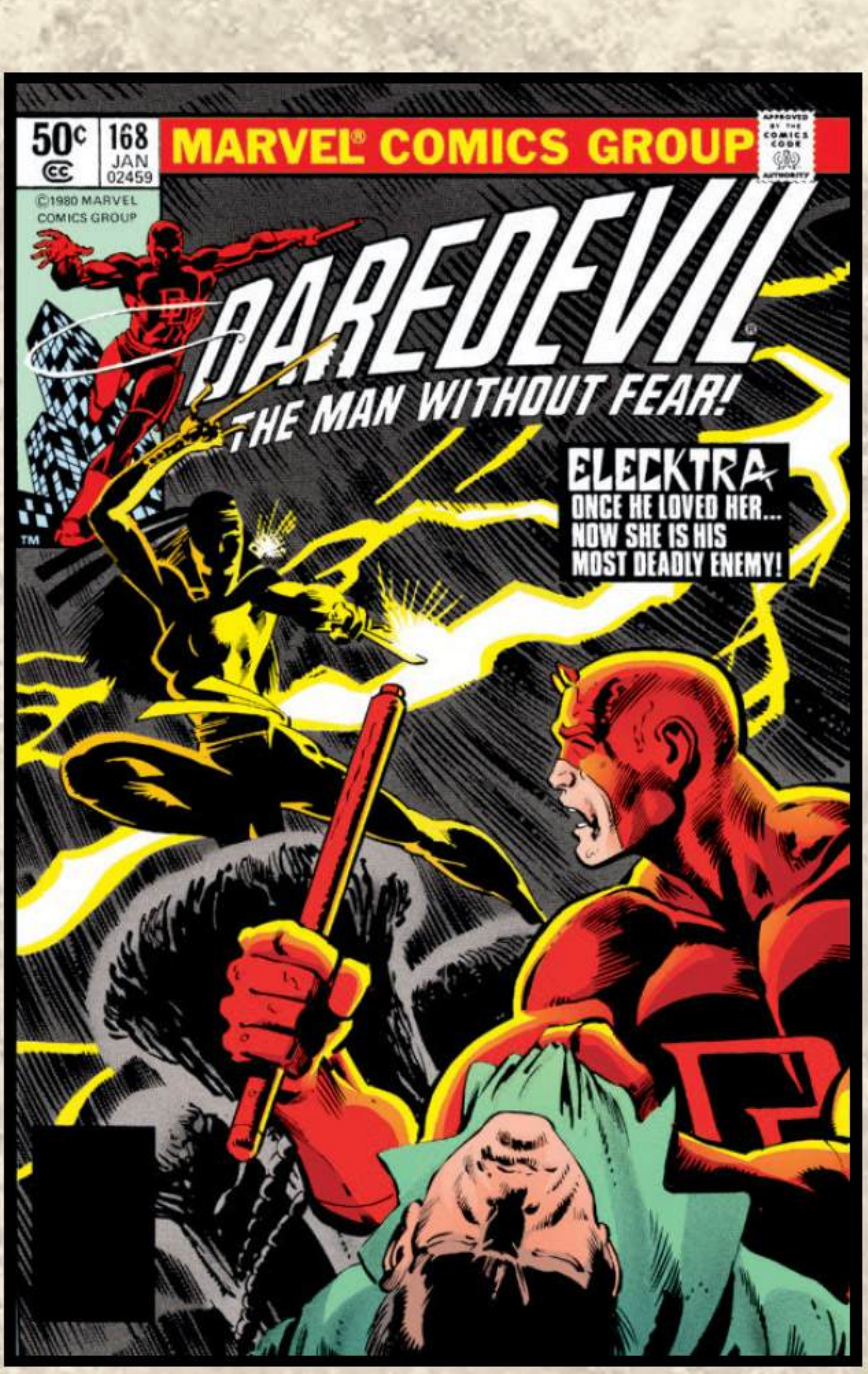


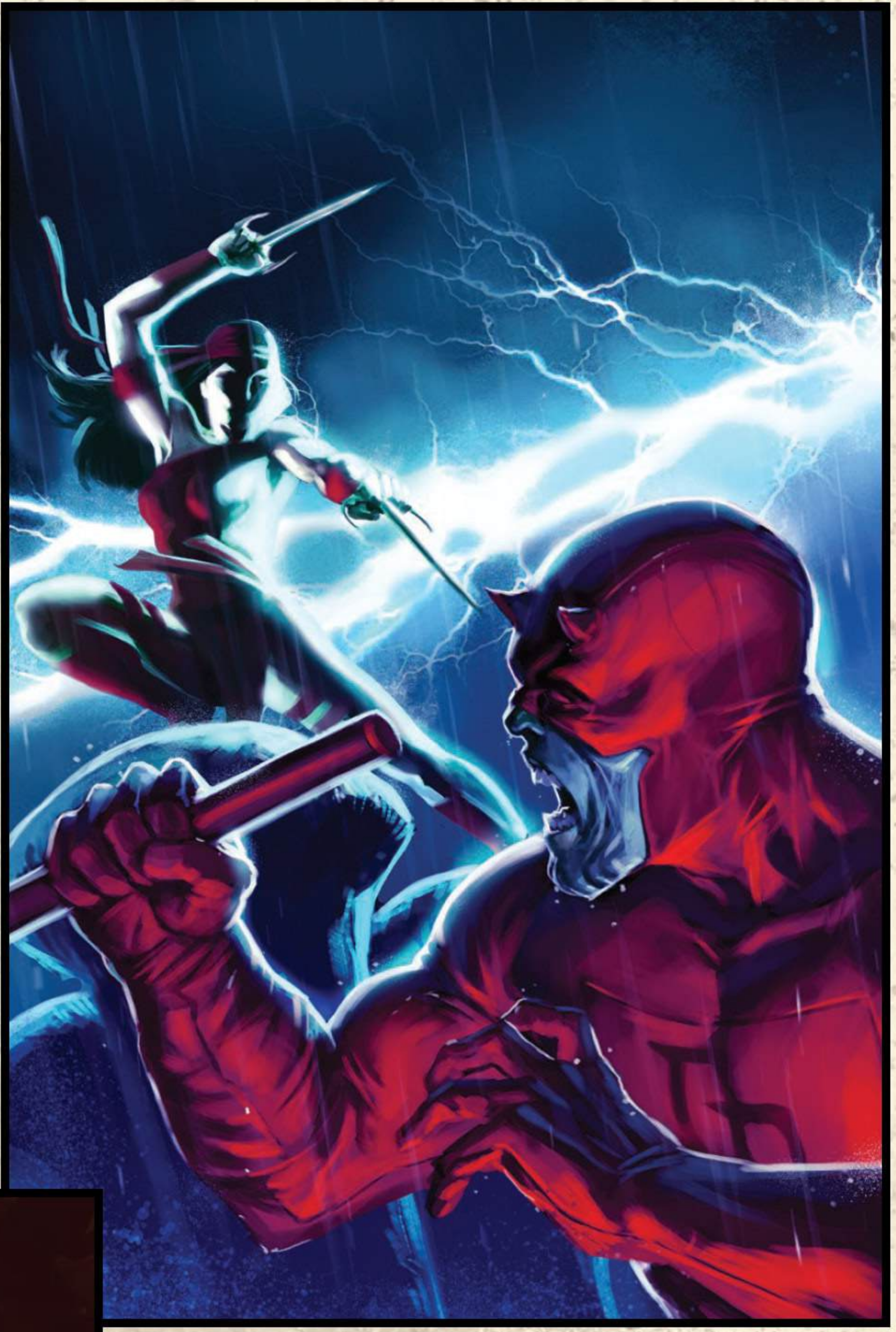


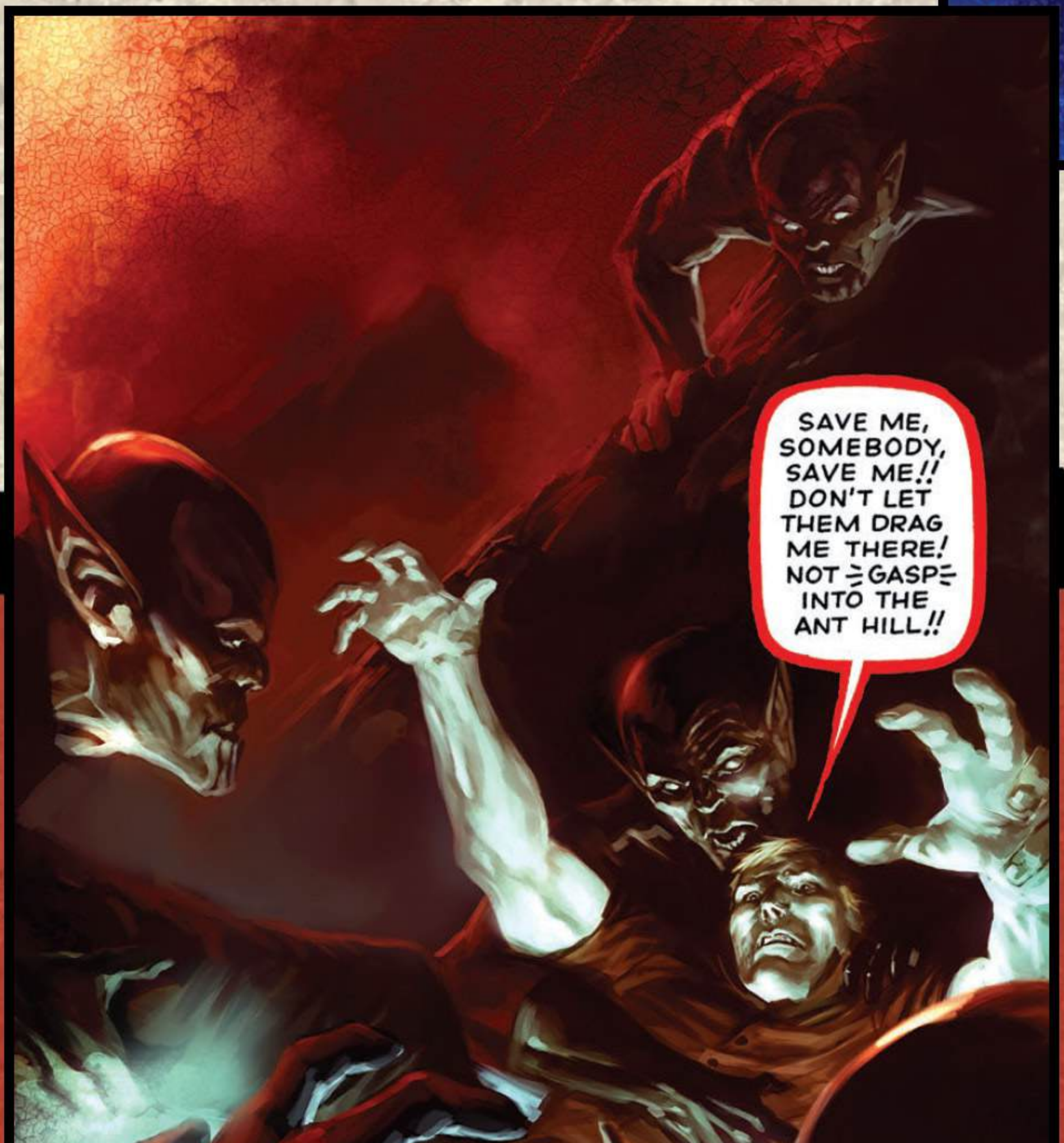

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
50¢ 213 NOV 02458
WIN A Columbia TEN-SPEED FORMULA 10. RACER!
DETAILS INSIDE
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES!
the AVENGERS
THE COURT-MARTIAL OF YELLOW-JACKET!
THIS DRAMATIC TALE IS DESTINED TO BE ANOTHER MIGHTY MARVEL MILE-STONE!

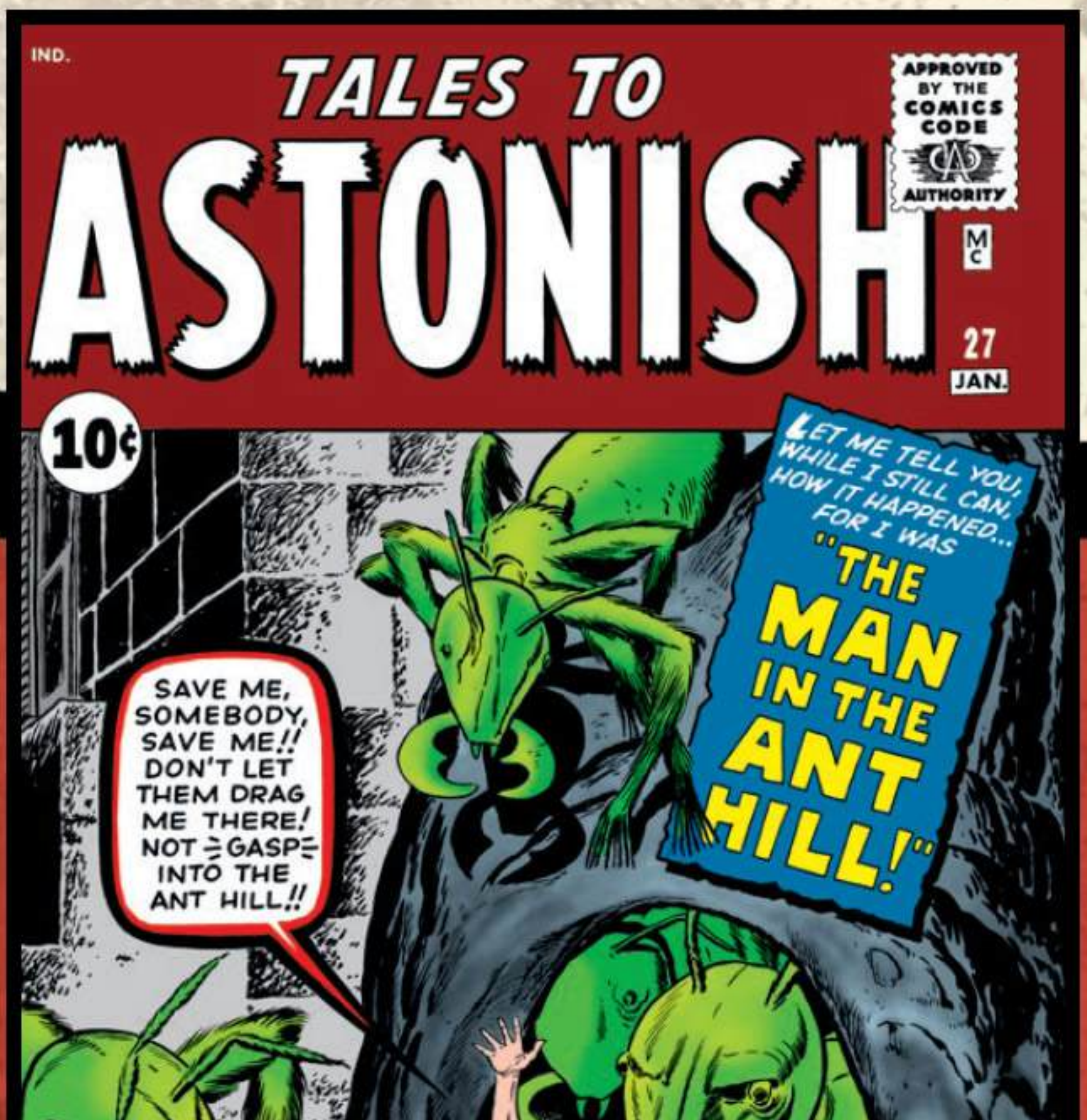
MIGHTY AVENGERS #14-15 BY **MARKO DJURDJEVIĆ**

DONE IN HOMAGE TO *AVENGERS (1963) #57* BY JOHN BUSCEMA
AND *AVENGERS (1963) #213* BY BOB HALL


50¢
168
JAN
02459
MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
©1980 MARVEL COMICS GROUP
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
ELECKTRA
ONCE HE LOVED HER... NOW SHE IS HIS MOST DEADLY ENEMY!

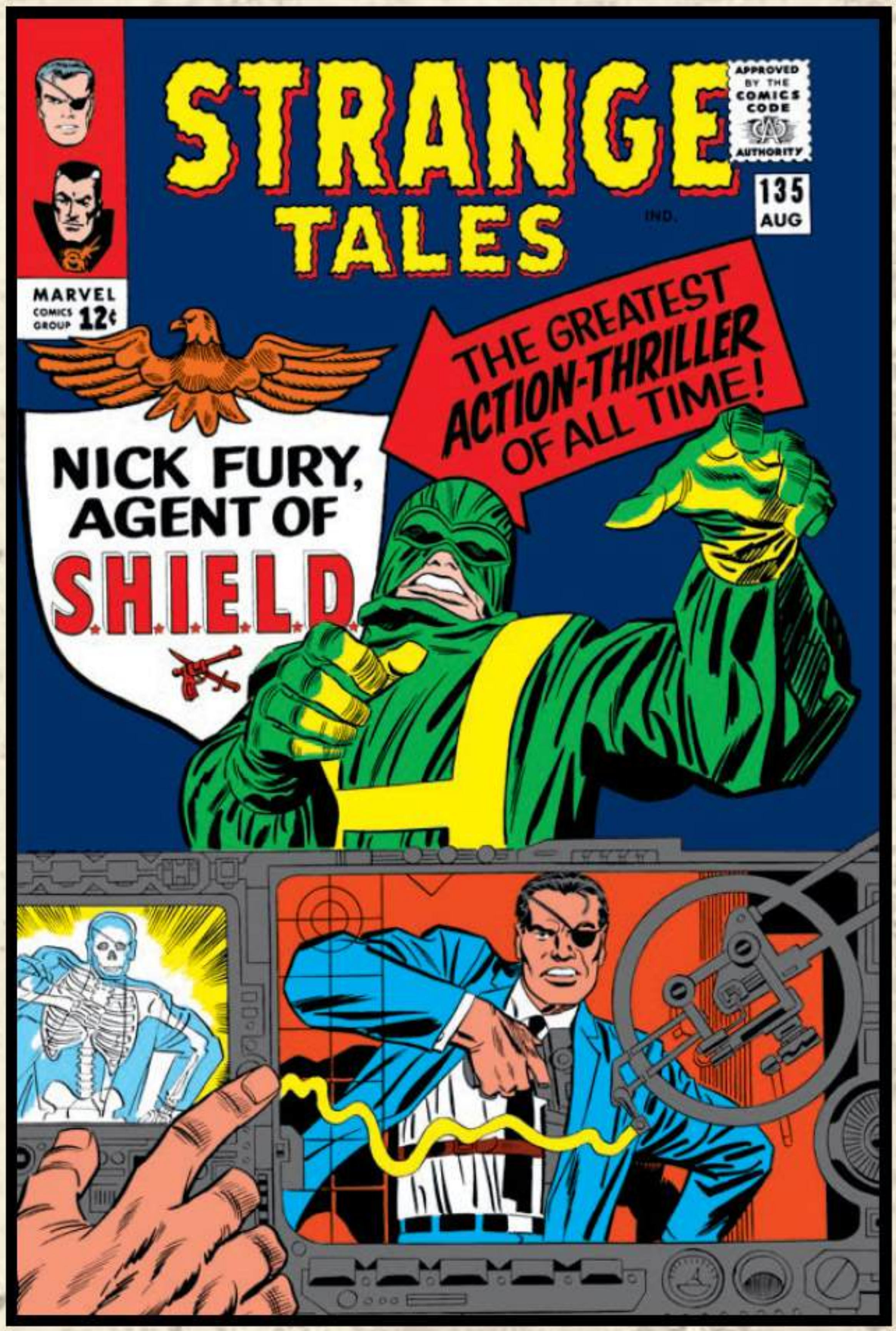


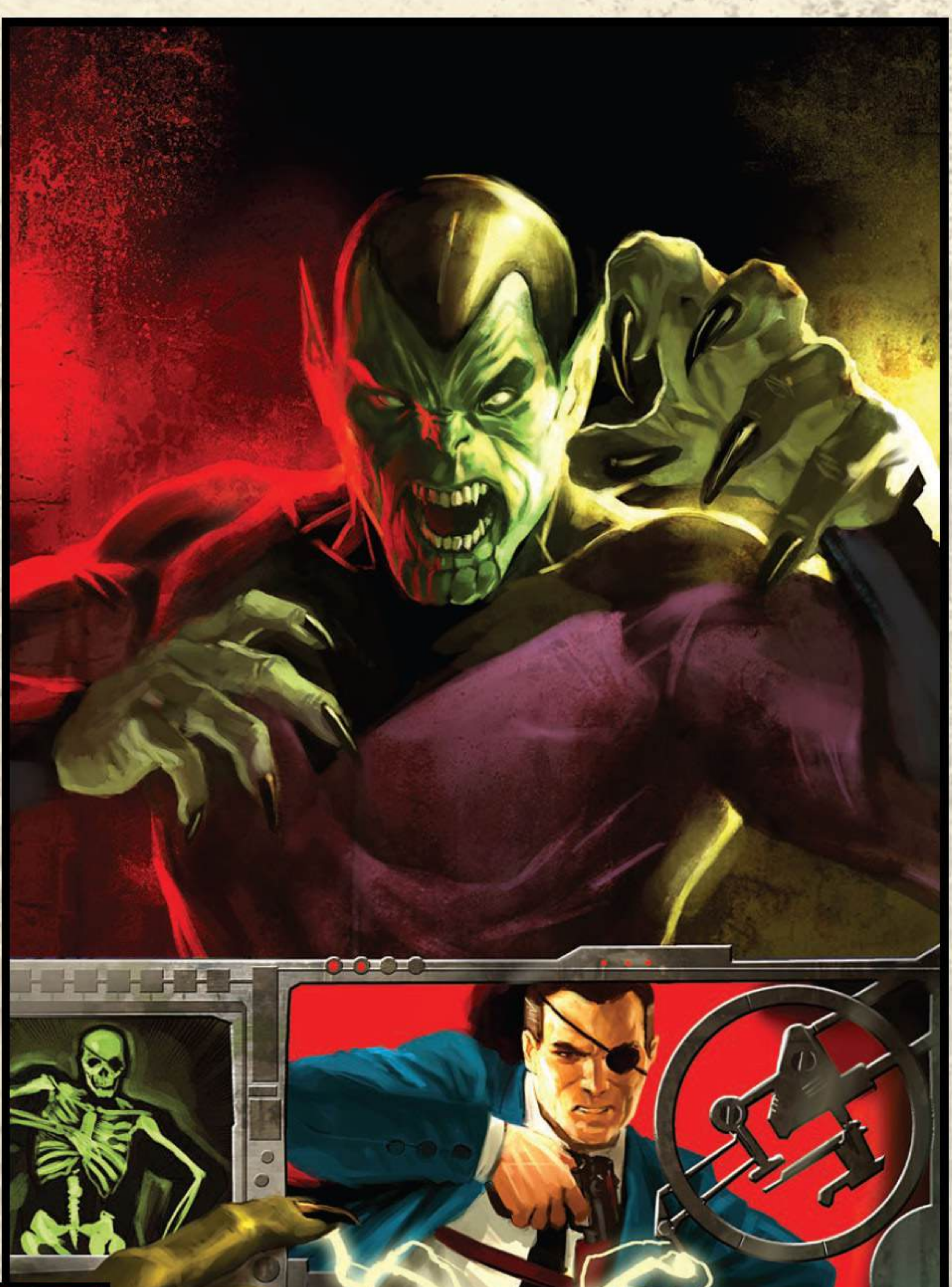

SAVE ME, SOMEBODY, SAVE ME!! DON'T LET THEM DRAG ME THERE! NOT –GASP– INTO THE ANT HILL!!

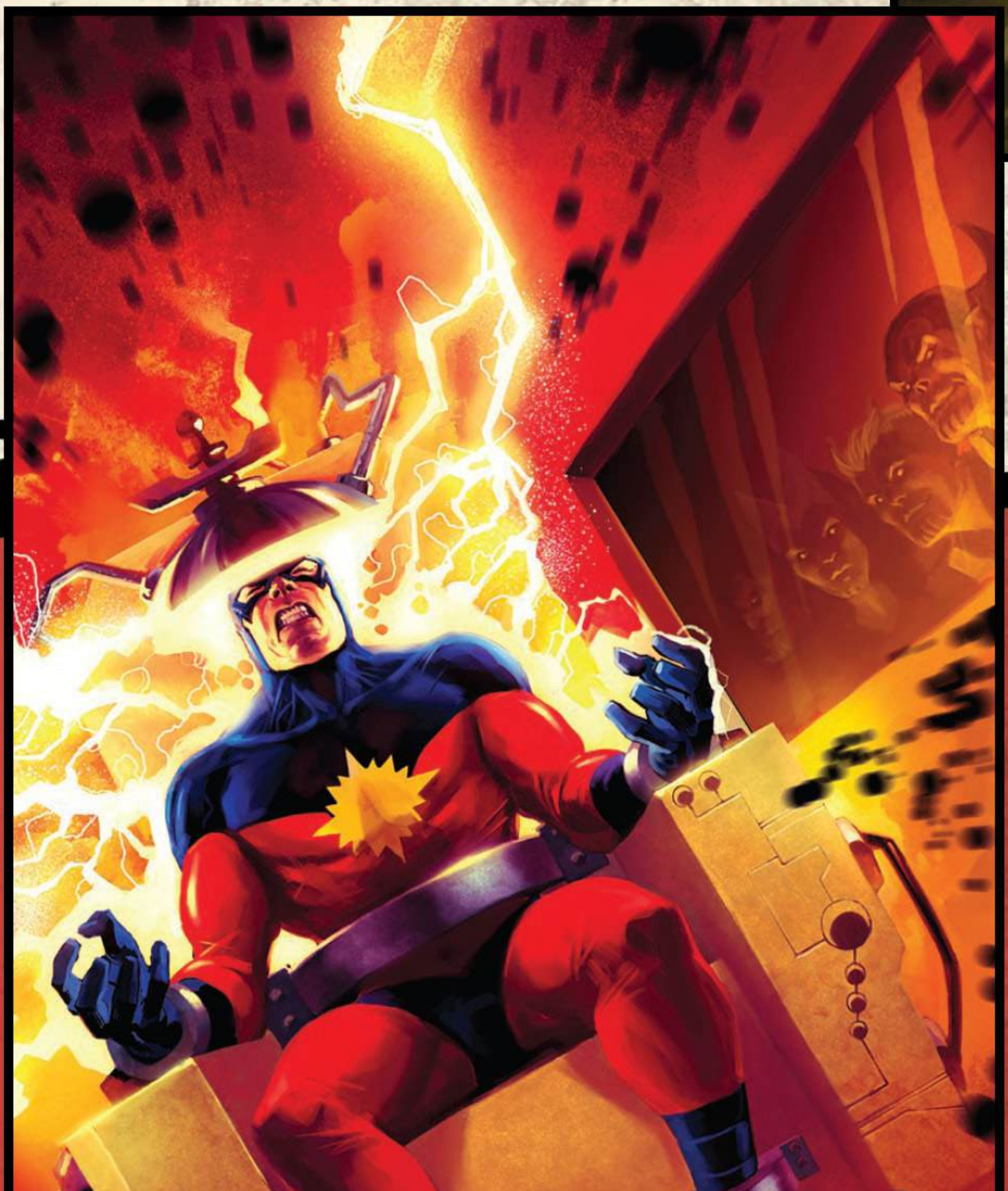

IND.
TALES TO
ASTONISH
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
27
JAN.
10¢
LET ME TELL YOU, WHILE I STILL CAN, HOW IT HAPPENED... FOR I WAS
"THE MAN IN THE ANT HILL!"
SAVE ME, SOMEBODY, SAVE ME!! DON'T LET THEM DRAG ME THERE! NOT –GASP– INTO THE ANT HILL!!

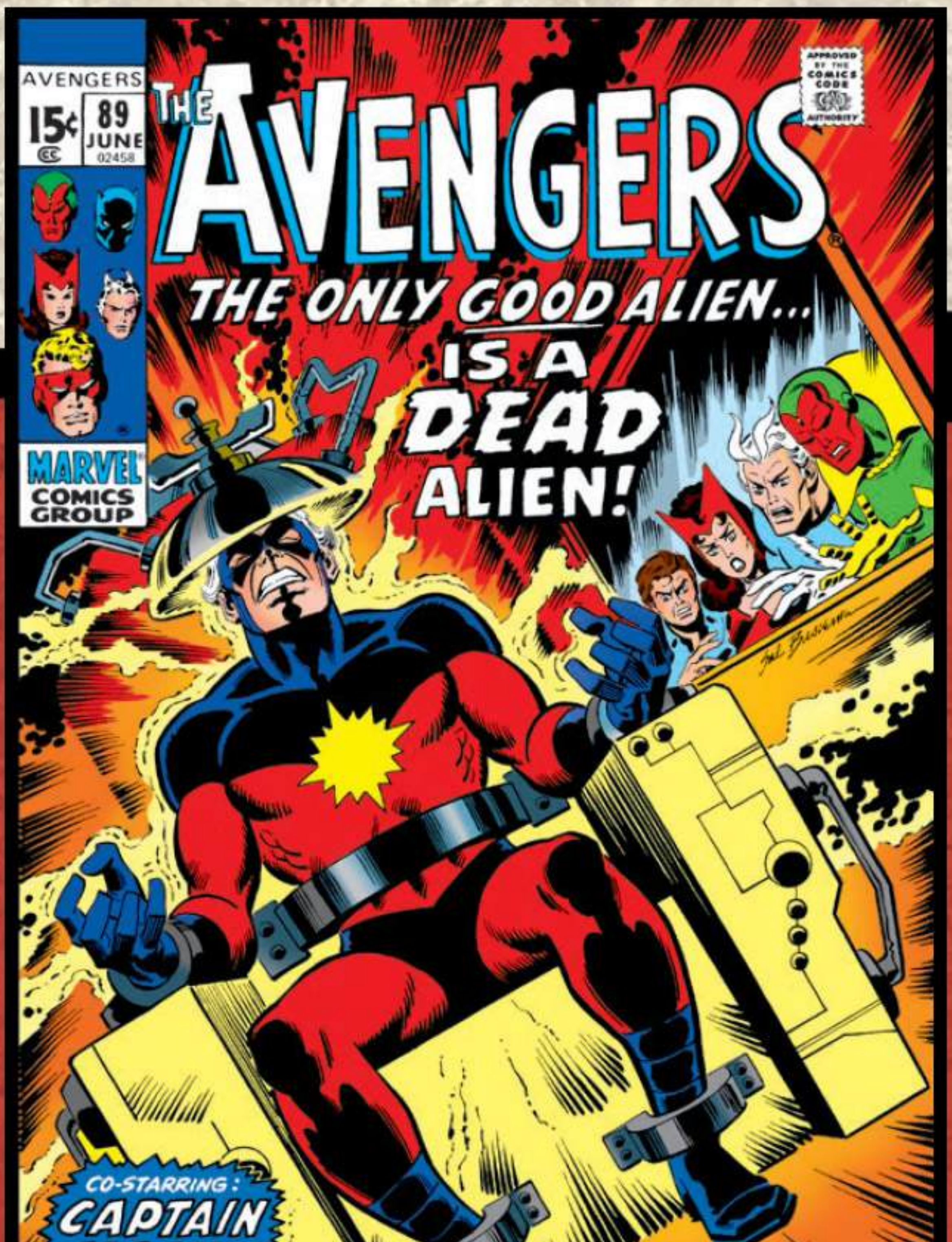
MIGHTY AVENGERS #16-17 BY **MARKO DJURDJEVIĆ**

DONE IN HOMAGE TO *DAREDEVIL (1964) #168* BY FRANK MILLER
AND *TALES TO ASTONISH (1959)* #27 BY JACK KIRBY


APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
STRANGE TALES
IND.
135 AUG
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
THE GREATEST ACTION-THRILLER OF ALL TIME!
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

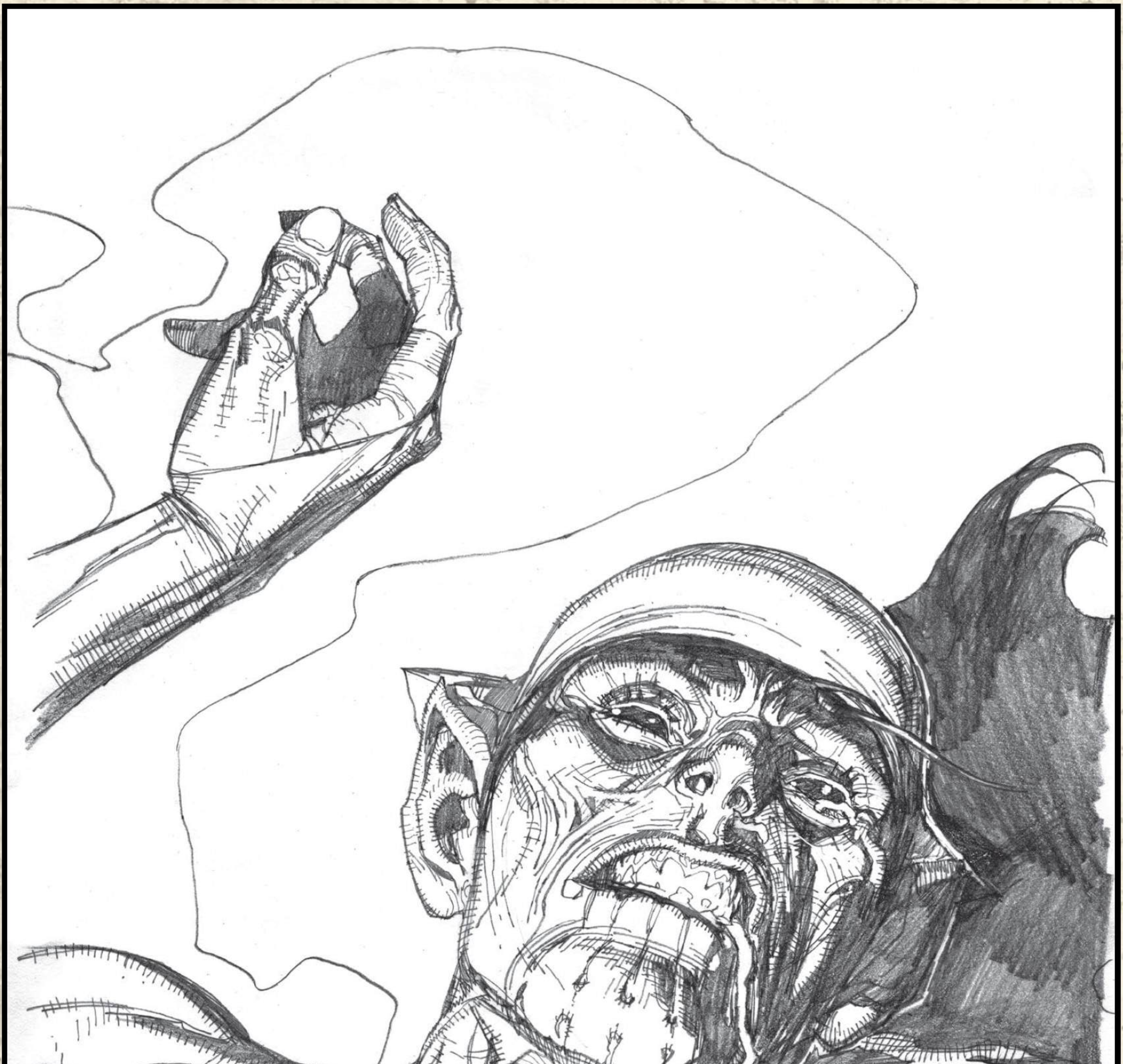




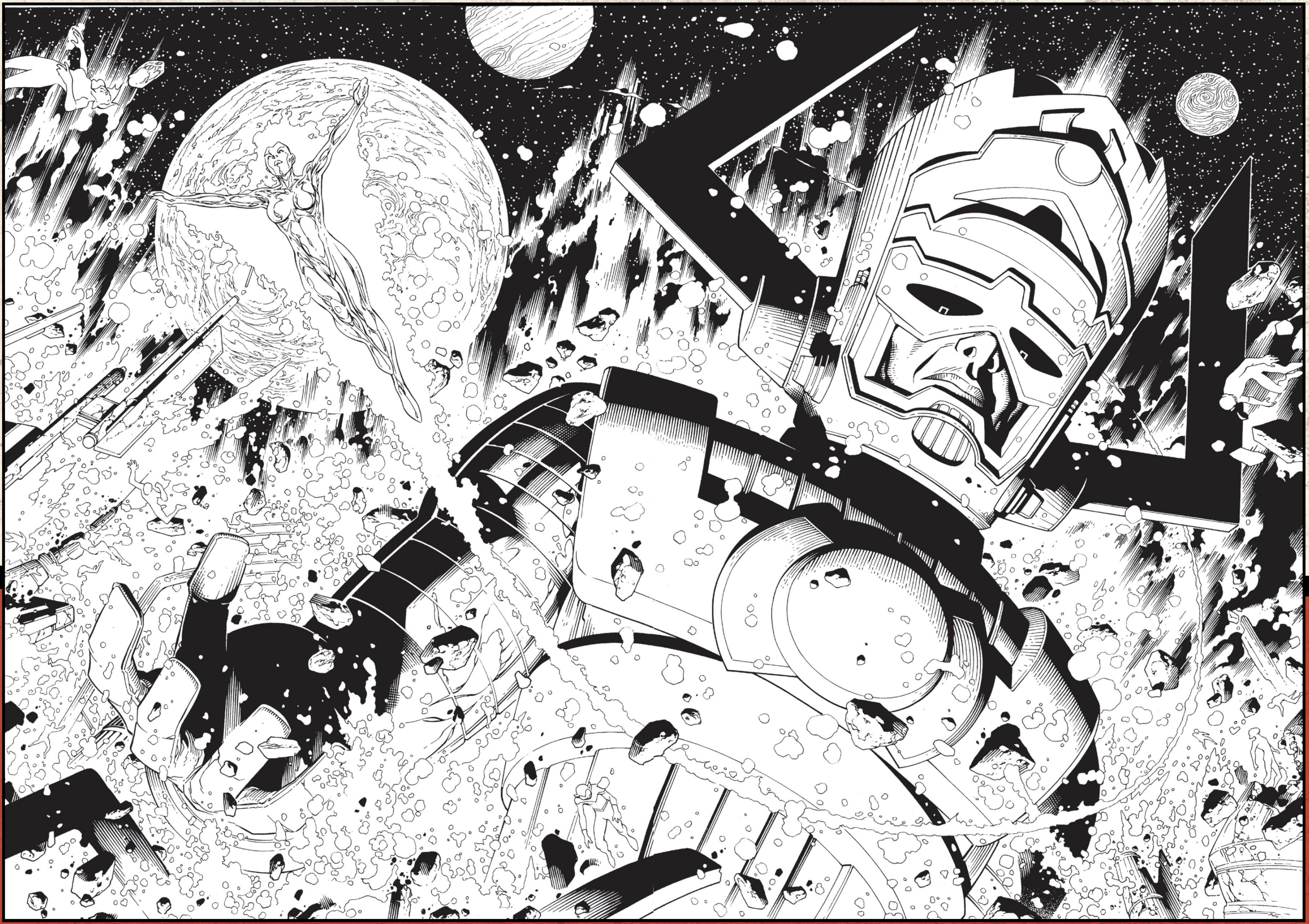

AVENGERS
15¢
89 JUNE 02458
THE AVENGERS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE ONLY GOOD ALIEN... IS A DEAD ALIEN!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
CO-STARRING: CAPTAIN MARVEL --THE MAN WITHOUT A WORLD!!

MIGHTY AVENGERS #18-19 BY **MARKO DJURDJEVIĆ**

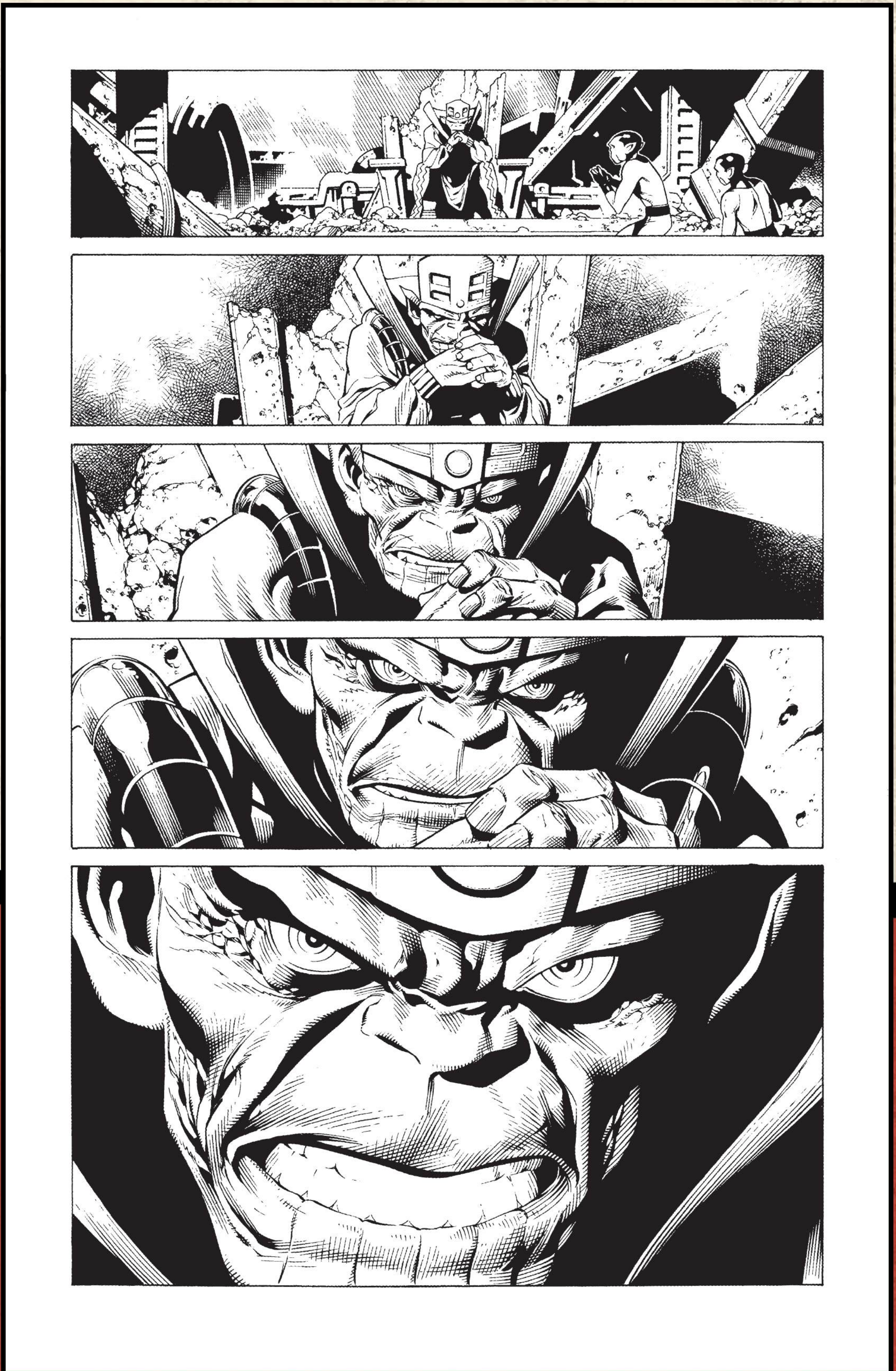
DONE IN HOMAGE TO *STRANGE TALES (1951) #135* BY JACK KIRBY
AND *AVENGERS (1963) #89* BY SAL BUSCEMA



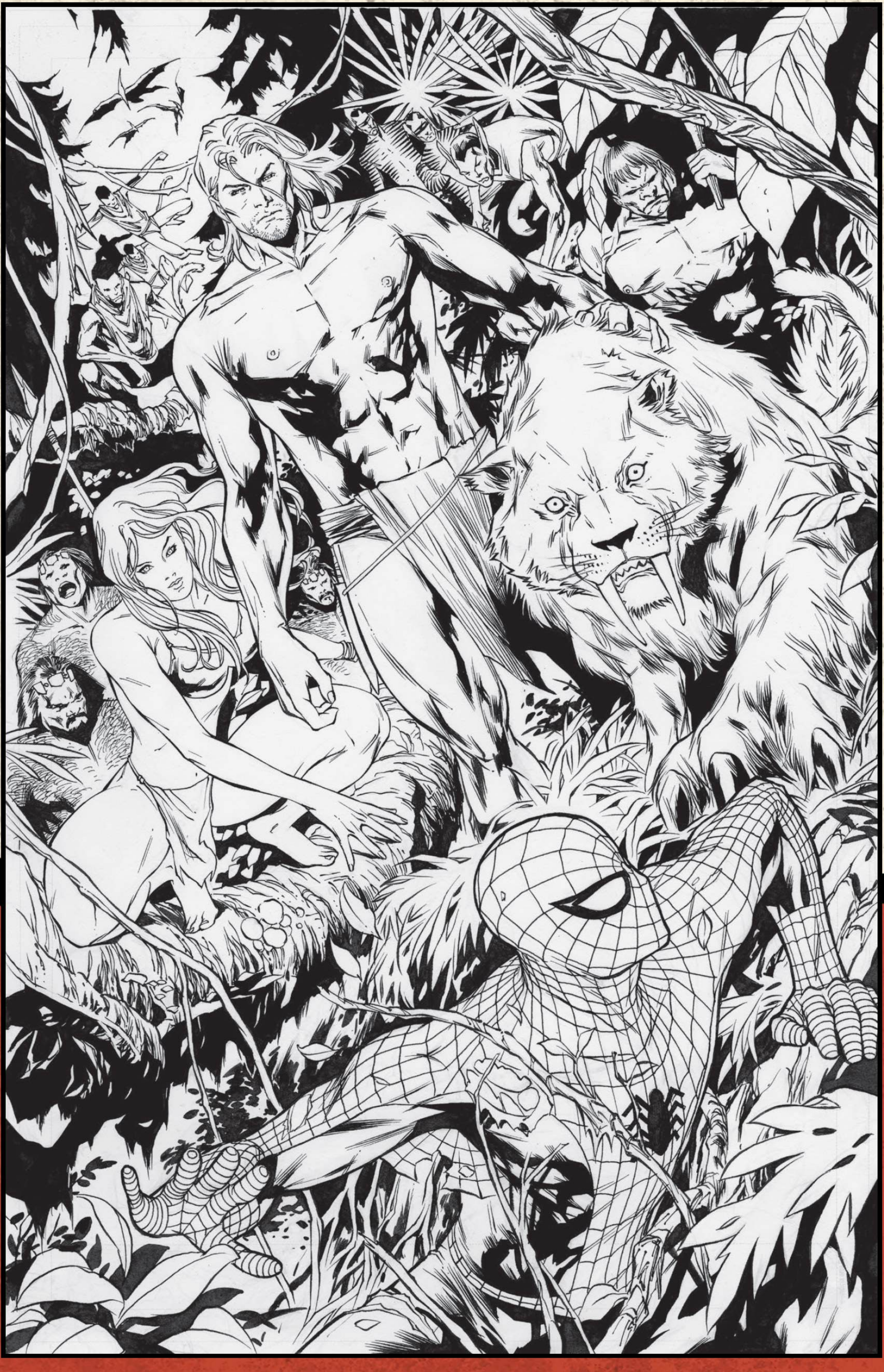
NEW AVENGERS #31 PAGES 19 ART BY **LEINIL FRANCIS YU**



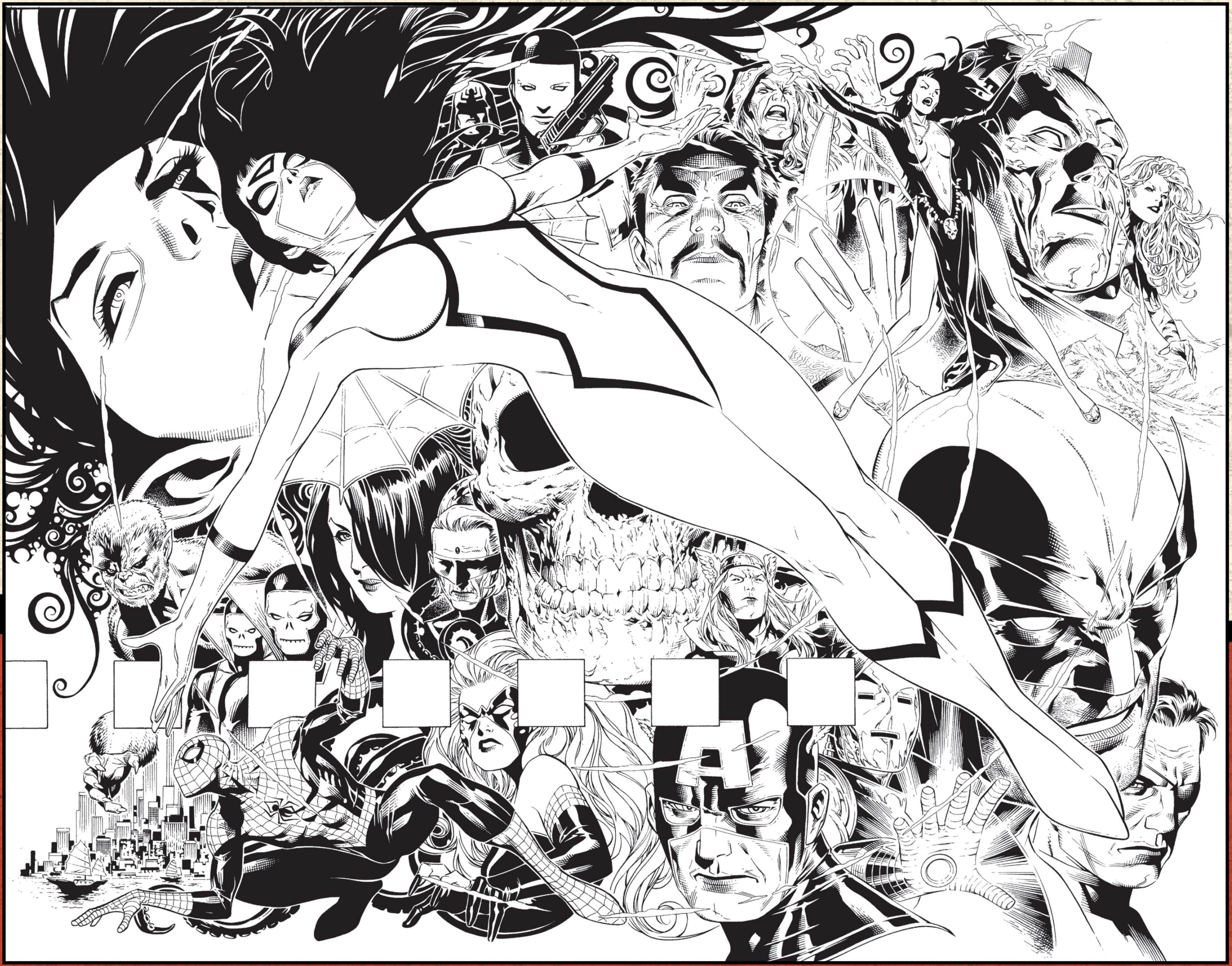
NEW AVENGERS #40, PAGES 11-12 ART BY **JIM CHEUNG** & **JOHN DELL**



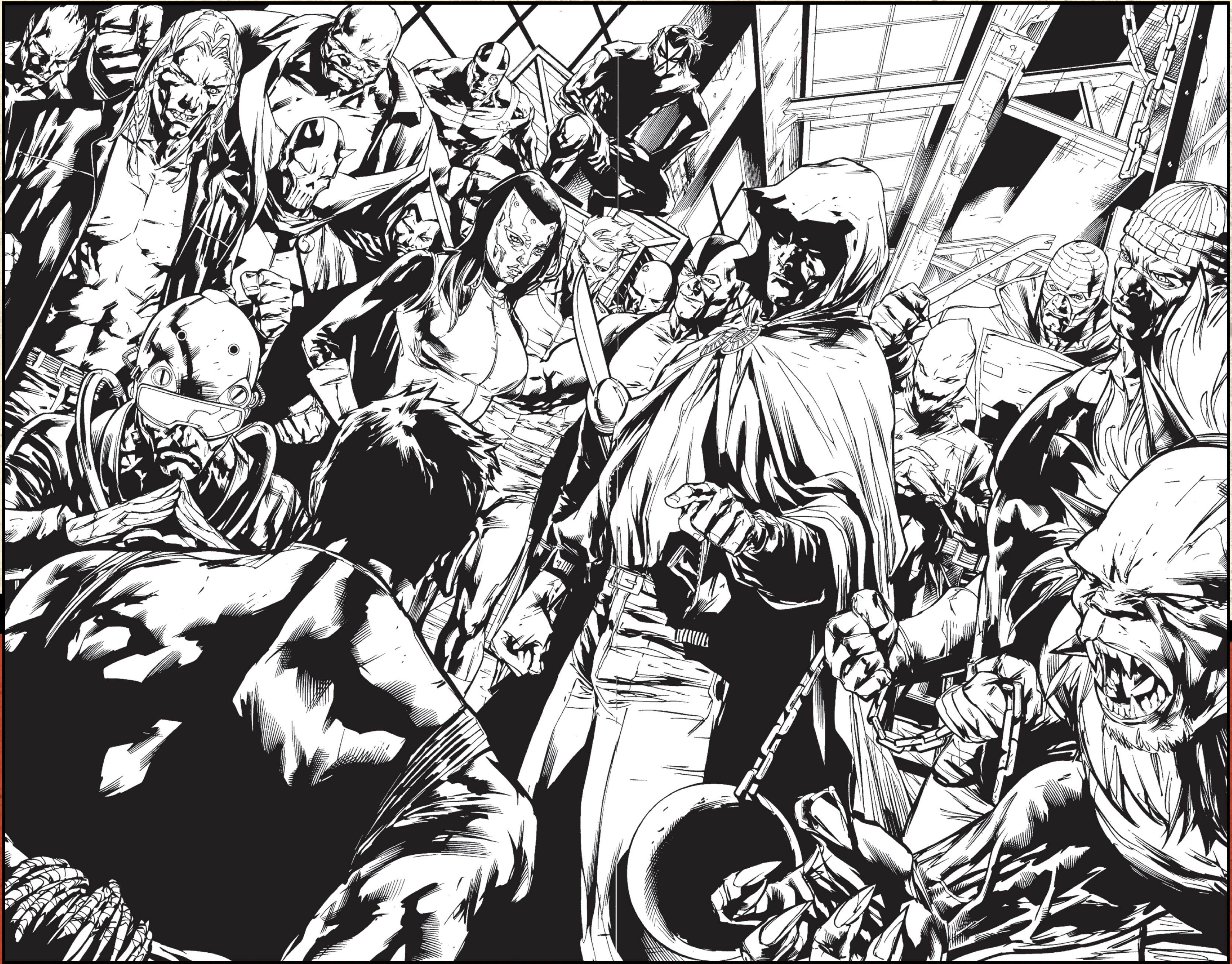
NEW AVENGERS #40, PAGE 1 ART BY **JIM CHEUNG** & **JOHN DELL**



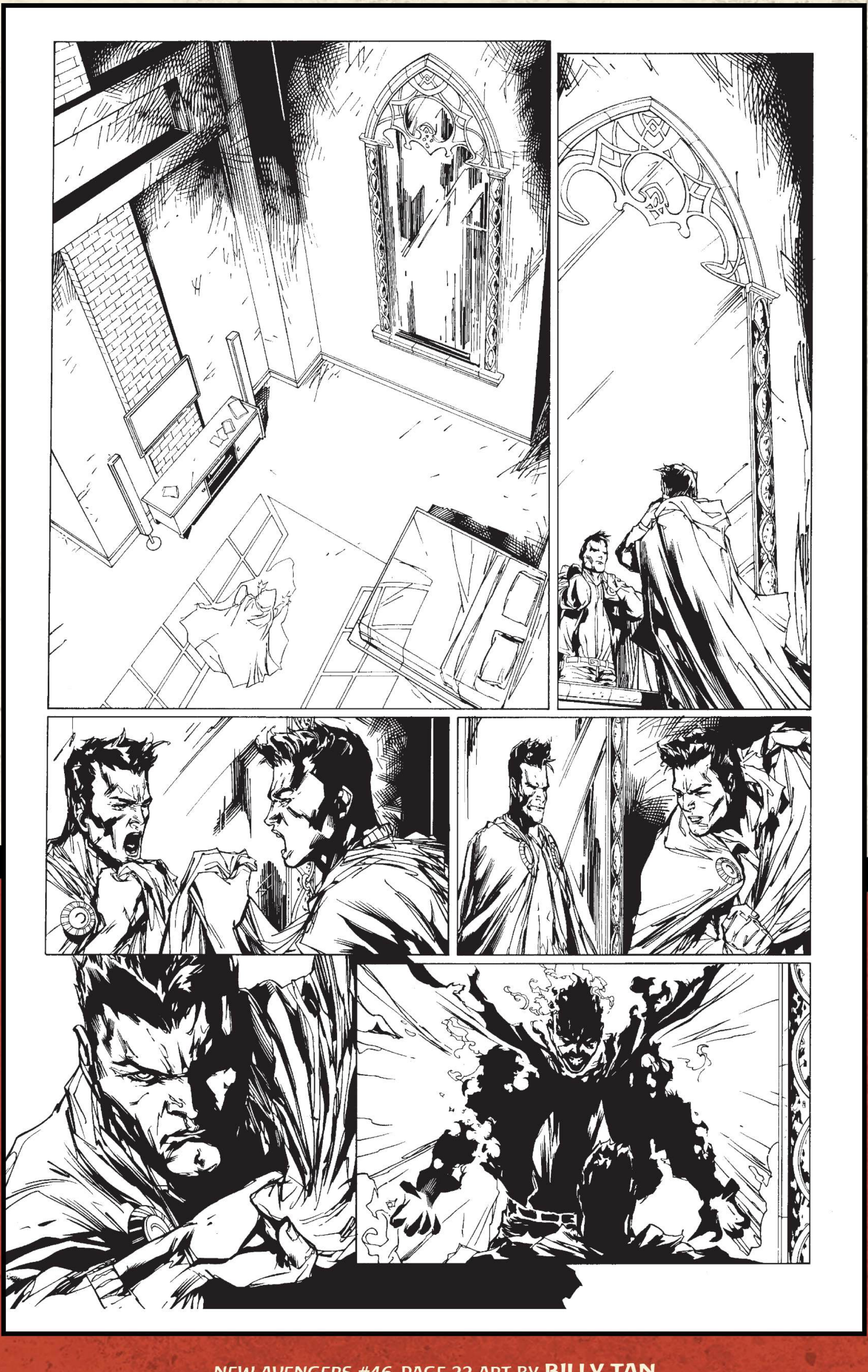
NEW AVENGERS #41, PAGE 4 ART BY **BILLY TAN**



NEW AVENGERS #42, PAGES 5-6 ART BY **JIM CHEUNG** & **JOHN DELL**



NEW AVENGERS #46, PAGES 2-3 ART BY **BILLY TAN** & **BATT**



NEW AVENGERS #46, PAGE 22 ART BY **BILLY TAN**

WHO DO YOU TRUST?

THE COMPLETE SECRET INVASION SAGA — COLLECTED IN FULL BETWEEN TWO COVERS LIKE NEVER BEFORE! WHEN THE ASSASSIN ELEKTRA IS KILLED AND REVEALED TO BE A SKRULL, EVERYTHING EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES THINK THEY KNOW IS CALLED INTO QUESTION! COULD THE SHAPE-SHIFTING RACE HAVE BEEN MANIPULATING THE MARVEL UNIVERSE SINCE BEFORE THE SUPERHUMAN CIVIL WAR? WILL FEAR AND PARANOIA TEAR THE FEUDING AVENGERS EVEN FURTHER APART? AND WHO AMONG THEM IS AN ALIEN IMPOSTOR? AS A SKRULL CRAFT CRASH-LANDS IN THE SAVAGE LAND, THE TIME FOR INFILTRATION IS OVER — AND THE INVASION BEGINS!

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS AND LEINIL FRANCIS YU KEEP YOU GUESSING WITH THEIR BLOCKBUSTER EVENT — AND A MURDERERS' ROW OF ARTISTS JOINS BENDIS TO REVEAL HOW YOUR FAVORITE HEROES WERE SECRETLY REPLACED!

COLLECTING **SECRET INVASION PROLOGUE** AND **#1-8**, **NEW AVENGERS (2004) #31-32** AND **#39-49**, **MIGHTY AVENGERS (2007) #7** AND **#12-20**, AND **NEW AVENGERS: ILLUMINATI (2007) #1** AND **#5** — BY BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS AND LEINIL FRANCIS YU WITH BRIAN REED, DAVID MACK, JIM CHEUNG, BILLY TAN, MICHAEL GAYDOS, MARK BAGLEY, ALEX MALEEV, KHOI PHAM, JOHN ROMITA JR., STEFANO CASELLI, CARLO PAGULAYAN AND LEE WEEKS.

T+